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**TOP JOBS SECTION 3**

A-level pass rate climbs to 86%

## Scramble for places at universities

By JOHN O'LEARY AND DAVID CHARTER

RECORD A-level pass rates to be announced today will trigger an unprecedented scramble for places at leading universities and increase pressure on the Government to reform the examinations system.

More than half of this autumn's 290,000 higher education places had been filled last night, as admissions tutors coped with the 15th successive rise in A-level grades. Almost 86 per cent of candidates passed their examinations, with 53.8 per cent achieving grades A to C — the traditional requirement for a university place.

The improvements — in both cases by about two percentage points over last year — will leave fewer places to be allocated and accelerate the clearing process that gives disappointed applicants a second chance.

Several leading universities said yesterday that they would have no places in clearing because of improved grades, and officials said that at least one medical school might exceed its quota. Competition for popular courses will be intense, and most applicants should have secured places by early next week.

While Oxford and Cambridge never use the clearing process, almost all provincial universities usually have some places available. But Bristol, Durham, Edinburgh and Nottingham said yesterday that they were unlikely to be in clearing this year.

Tony Higgins, chief executive of the University and College Admissions Service, said: "This is the first time that more than half of the places have been filled by this stage, but it is not a crisis. Because more people have got first choice places, there will be fewer people chasing fewer courses in clearing."

Lord Henley, the junior education minister, offered congratulations on the results and urged critics not to equate



"What a coincidence — I used to run an A-level retake college, too"

improvement with falling standards. "Parents, teachers and young people themselves must be sick and tired of hearing and reading doom merchants calling into question the efforts and achievements the results reflect." But Opposition parties called for the number of examining boards to be cut to ensure consistency in marking.

Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, was said to be planning to extend the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority's powers to cover A-levels — possibly in the Queen's Speech — while discussion continues on the merits of a single examinations council.

Examination boards and teachers' leaders insisted that there was no evidence of standards slipping and the proportion of A grades rose more slowly than other pass rates — by just under half a percentage point to 16 per cent. Kathleen Tattersall, representing the boards, said it was "the quality of work alone" that determined grades. "We refuse entirely that the competition between boards lowers standards and leads to a higher success rate."

But academics and employers' organisations expressed doubts about the impact of

modular A levels. These allow unlimited re-takes of units covering roughly a term's work and students can opt not to register for the final examination if they are likely to fail.

The only major study of standards in modular A levels concluded that students gained at least one grade higher than candidates of similar ability on traditional courses, and this year the "modular" students' pass rate was higher in all subjects where large numbers took the new courses.

David Trisman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said that, particularly in mathematics, there was "strong anecdotal evidence of an increasing mismatch between what A-level students achieve and what is needed for university courses". Roger Young, director general of the Institute of Management, said: "Setting a UK record is one thing, but our young people are now competing in a race against a world-class field."

Ruth Lea, policy director of the Institute of Directors, was concerned about the "lack of rigour" in modular exams, and the proliferation of "soft" subjects at A level.

However, head teachers described the criticism as poppycock. David Hart of the National Association of Head Teachers said: "The achievements of students and their teachers should not be undermined by those who seem to delight in denigrating their success."

And Steve Sinnott, deputy general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "Students and teachers would appreciate at least one year when their efforts were not undermined by a small, politically motivated group denigrating their achievements. It is time this nasty little group allowed our young people to enjoy their success."

A-level results, pages 8 and 9



A British UN peacekeeper calls for help after one of his comrades is wounded during the clashes yesterday

## British soldiers shot in Cyprus

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA, AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO British soldiers serving with the United Nations force in Cyprus were wounded yesterday during renewed clashes between troops from the Turkish-occupied north of the island and Greek Cypriot demonstrators.

The two soldiers from 39 Regiment Royal Artillery suffered gunshot wounds while trying to hold back crowds of protesters at Dherinia, in the eastern part of the UN buffer zone.

The unarmed soldiers, who are part of a 370-man British contingent in the UN force, were caught in a hail of bullets as Turkish troops opened fire on the protesters. One Greek Cypriot man was killed and several others were wounded.

It was the second death along the island's "Green Line" in four days and one of the worst scenes of violence since Turkey invaded the island's northern territory in 1974.

One of the British peacekeepers was shot in the lower back while the other was hit in

the arm. The Ministry of Defence in London said their injuries were "not life-threatening". The Foreign Office condemned the violence which, it said, reinforced the urgent need for a political settlement in Cyprus.

The shooting began when



A protester shines up the Turkish flagpole

Greek Cypriot protesters forced their way into the buffer zone soon after the funeral of Tassos Isaac, a young Greek Cypriot man, who was battered to death by a mob from the Turkish-held sector in a demonstration on Sunday.

More than 200 people among the thousands of mourners who attended the funeral broke past a Greek Cypriot police cordon to breach the buffer zone.

One man climbed a flagpole and tried to remove a Turkish Cypriot flag. Turkish troops opened fire, fatally wounding the man, Solomos Solomou, in the neck.

A UN spokesman said: "There was one hell of a lot of bullets flying from behind the Turkish ceasefire line, with our men in the line of fire. We consider this a disproportionate action to the Greek Cypriot provocation."

The spokesman said representations would be made to the Turkish Army at the highest level.

The other Greek Cypriots who were wounded, at least two of them seriously, included a 59-year-old woman who had a kidney removed during surgery. UN officers said some Greek Cypriots had thrown stones at Turkish positions but none of the protesters was armed.

The British peacekeepers, who normally man the most sensitive part of the buffer zone in and around Nicosia, had been redeployed earlier in the week to support Austrian and Hungarian soldiers and Irish police, who man the dividing line in the east of the island.

Guns by post, page 3

### Vicar case arrest

Terry Storey, wanted in connection with the killing of Liverpool vicar Christopher Gibby, was arrested at a flat early yesterday.

Ministry's risks, page 5  
Lord Runcie, page 16

### Drop in jobless

The Government has hailed figures showing that unemployment has fallen to its lowest level for five years. July's fall of 24,100 brought the total to 2,126,300. Page 23

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## Big Mac windfall for Tories

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Portillo's difficulties over the proposed sale of his local Tory headquarters to McDonald's deepened last night when it was disclosed that Conservative Central Office will benefit by up to £100,000 from the proceeds.

The Defence Secretary has connections with the fast-food chain, one of Britain's biggest private employers. He is a close friend of Geoffrey Tucker, 71, McDonald's political consultant.

An approach was made to McDonald's, from within Mr Portillo's Enfield Southgate

Conservative Association, to buy the Edwardian building. McDonald's offered £325,000, £100,000 more than rival bids.

Officials close to Conservative Central Office made clear last night that the party high command would benefit. "A donation in the form of a loan of up to £100,000 will be made to Central Office from the proceeds," said one.

If the bid goes through, at least £100,000 will be left when the local party buys a new headquarters. "It will be made available to Central Office in the form of a loan

which we can be repaid to the local party at any moment."

The revelation will heighten fears among Mr Portillo's constituents that the McDonald's offer is effectively a political donation. Many loyal Tory activists have vowed not to vote for Mr Portillo again unless he decides to oppose the bid. Mr Portillo has declined because it could breach Cabinet collective responsibility as the bid is likely to go to an appeal ruling by the Environment Secretary.

Constituency row, page 2

## Dole is poised to play the Colin Powell card

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

BOB DOLE was last night preparing to receive the Republican Party nomination he first sought 16 years ago. As he did so, speculation grew that he might ask Colin Powell to be his Secretary of State.

Dole aides at the party convention here were actively exploring ways to improve their candidate's chances of defeating President Clinton in November by drawing the retired general deeper into the campaign. One possibility is that Mr Dole will offer Gener-

al Powell the State Department job in his administration. If the general accepts, Mr Dole might take the unprecedented step of announcing it before election day.

A night poll yesterday put Mr Dole 12 points behind Mr Clinton. That gap has barely changed during the first two days of the convention but Mr Dole hopes for another big boost tonight when he formally accepts the nomination.

Powell factor, page 12

## Rival slipped Valium to Chizzy the chihuahua

By EMMA WILKINS

A WOMAN who gave a prize chihuahua a Valium tablet shortly before it was due to compete in a top dog show was banned from the Kennel Club for five years yesterday.

The pill left Chizzy, a 14-month-old long-haired bitch, incapable of standing or even wagging her tail, her owner Tracey Dyke told the club's disciplinary committee.

It had been given to Chizzy by Carol Brampton, a dog owner from Faversham, Kent, at the Northern Counties Championship show last year.

Mrs Brampton, who denied giving the dog Valium and said the tablet was a homeopathic remedy, had behaved "disrespectfully and prejudicially" to the interests of the canine world, the Kennel Club's disciplinary committee ruled after a hearing in London.

She was suspended for five years from all Kennel Club shows and events and ordered to pay £209 costs.

The hearing had heard allegations of jealousy and intrigue that would have put a medieval court to shame. Mrs Brampton claimed the allegations were made out of jealousy over her 20 years of success in showing chihuahuas.

Mrs Dyke, of Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, cried when she told

how Mrs Brampton smiled as she administered the 0.5 milligram tablet.

Chizzy, whose full name is Deltrame Secret Showburst, became lethargic and fell into a stupor at the show in Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, where Mrs Brampton's chihuahua was also competing.

After the hearing, Mrs Dyke said: "This will rock the dog world. This sort of thing should not happen and dogs should not be used on dogs."

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# Trust chairman forced out by doctors' resignation

By DOMINIC KENNEDY  
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE chairman of a hospital trust was forced out of his job yesterday after 16 of his leading consultants resigned.

Peter Allen, 61, a former senior manager with British Steel, agreed to relinquish his post to end one of the most dramatic trials of strength between doctors and managers since the National Health Service internal market was created. The resignation will be seen throughout the health service as a victory for the white coats over the grey suits. However, it was unclear whether

his head would be enough to satisfy 60 consultants at a leading hospital who had already passed votes of no confidence in Mr Allen and Tony Beddow, his chief executive.

Gwynn Jones, the Minister for Health in Wales, said the chairman had taken the right decision to leave his £19,285-a-year post, which involved 3½ days work per week. The chairman stood down within hours of some of the leading clinicians in Wales penning individual letters of resignation to the trust.

The dispute began when the Morriston Hospital NHS Trust in Swansea tried to make three doctors and 13 medical staff redundant

without warning last week. The trust was facing a cash crisis after the local health authority transferred a £1.6 million contract for elderly people's care to another hospital in the area. Its budget was said to be £3 million in the red.

The stand-off threatened to affect patients unless a solution could be found quickly. The consultants had resigned from their duties as clinical directors in specialties ranging from accident and emergency to urology. Their mass resignation was seen as unprecedented in the health service.

They were prepared to continue to care for patients, but refused to have any more input into the manage-

ment of their hospital, the administration of their departments and the preparation of contracts. That would have made the internal market unworkable.

The vote of no-confidence in the two men came after a three-hour meeting of 60 consultants. There were no dissenting voices.

The trust's board responded by issuing a unanimous declaration of confidence in both of them. Mr Beddow is regarded, even by his opponents, as a devoted and committed servant of the NHS with a long history as a backroom man involved in planning. But his direct manner can be seen as abrasive and

confrontational. Mr Jones said: "I have been saddened at this whole episode. I recognise that the board has faced difficult decisions but the root of the problem appears to have been a failure of communications between themselves and key staff at the hospital."

"The major issue is that all staff need to feel that they have an opportunity to influence decisions that affect their careers and health care for patients."

The decision is a morale boost for the British Medical Association, which backed the consultants. Bob Broughton, its Welsh secretary, said: "The situation can only be

mended by a change of management. This is the gravest crisis facing the NHS in Wales in modern history."

Mr Beddow said yesterday: "I want to bridge the gap with the consultants. The challenge now is to find ways of cutting the £3 million in other ways."

The hospital consultants were last night still hoping to force the chief executive to resign. Dr Broughton said that the vote of no confidence in Mr Beddow still stands.

The proposed redundancies of 16 staff were withdrawn at the board meeting earlier this week.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Employers say postal strike is collapsing

About 15,000 postal workers ignored their union and reported for work during the fifth national postal strike yesterday, according to Royal Mail. It said the return to work was growing and called again on the Communications Workers Union to ballot members on a pay and conditions deal agreed at Acaas. A CWU spokesman maintained that the strike was strong in most areas of the country. The next stoppage is scheduled for next Thursday.

### Pay protest

The pensioner who received an angry rebuke from her Tory MP for writing to complain about MPs' pay rises yesterday attacked Labour for leaking the letter. Dame Angela Rumbold had told Hilary Pentercost, 76, that she was fed up with protests about her 26 per cent pay rise.

### Concrete attack

A concrete block was thrown through the window of an SDLP councillor's house in Belfast after he had condemned IRA punishment beatings on television the night before. Hugh Lewisley, who was beaten in a suspected IRA attack last year, narrowly escaped injury.

### Beef sold as lamb

The Government was urged to carry out a survey of meat products after the disclosure that at least two supermarkets could be facing prosecution for selling beef as lamb. Trading standards officers suspect retailers have been including beef in lamb mince since the BSE scare.

### Doctor may quit

Mandy Allwood, who is pregnant with eight foetuses, was told yesterday she would have to choose between her doctor and a newspaper deal. Professor Kypros Nicolaides said he was no longer prepared to manage her pregnancy "under the spotlight of international publicity".

### Hunt continues

Five French detectives are due to arrive in Britain today to pursue their investigation into the case of Caroline Dickinson, 13, from Launceston in Cornwall, who was raped and murdered in a Brittany youth hostel on July 18 while on a school trip with Launceston College.

### Islands for sale

A chain of private islands off the northwest coast of Scotland has been put on the market. The Ascrib Islands, about two miles off the north of the Isle of Skye, are expected to fetch more than £200,000. There are six main islands in the chain, totalling around 146 acres.

### Woman named

The woman found battered to death in Manchester after a night out with friends was named yesterday as Rachel Thacker, 22, Miss Thacker, above, from Chastown, Staffordshire, was due to start her first job caring for the elderly at a hospital in West Bromwich today.



'The association is not listening to the members'

## Voters desert Portillo over 'Burgergate' claims

By ANDREW PIERCE, JOANNA BAILE AND JAMES LANDALE

MICHAEL PORTILLO, who is facing a revolt by previously Tory-voting constituents over plans to turn the local Conservative association headquarters into a McDonald's restaurant, is a close friend of the company's political consultant.

Geoffrey Tucker, 71, who was director of communications at Conservative Central Office during the Heath government, has been employed as a lobbyist for years to promote the McDonald's cause in Whitehall.

Many lifelong Tories in Mr Portillo's Enfield Southgate constituency predicted yesterday that the MP, who has a 15,563 majority, could lose his seat over his refusal to oppose the company's application for planning permission for the drive-through restaurant.

Residents' suspicions that the McDonald's bid, £100,000 higher than the rival offers, was effectively a political donation will be fuelled by the revelation that local party chiefs plan to lend some of the proceeds of the sale to Central Office.

Mr Portillo, the Defence Secretary, was heckled at a packed public meeting on Tuesday night when he made clear that as a Cabinet minister he could not take sides because the planning decision could go to appeal and be

adjudicated by the Environment Secretary. "We are then bound by collective responsibility," he told *The Times*.

Mr Portillo was pictured last year on the other side of the counter at an existing McDonald's in Southgate, complete with uniform.

McDonald's has intimidated the local Conservative association that it expects the application to be rejected by the local authority but to win on appeal. Efforts to win an appeal have begun.

The company's formidable lobbying operation is already under way. The company has impeccable contacts. Sir Bernard Ingham, Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, is a non-executive director of McDonald's. Mike Love, the company's director of communications, was the former Prime Minister's agent when she was MP for Finchley. Mr Love and Lady Thatcher are still close.

Mr Tucker, the architect of the Tories' 1970 general election victory, has done most to smooth the path to the top of the political ladder for McDonald's. Mr Portillo and his wife Carolyn have stayed at Mr Tucker's villa in Lucca, Italy. Mr Portillo, William Waldegrave, and Douglas Hurd, were guests at his 70th birthday party at Brooks's.

A McDonald's spokeswoman

said: "Mr Tucker helps to arrange political dinners with ministers and MPs from all parties. We have no political affiliations. Mr Tucker also gives us political advice."

In February, the company for the first time hired a firm of political consultants, The Communication Group, which has strong links to the Labour Party. A rival lobbyist said: "One suspects they decided to hire [the firm] now to prepare for life under a Labour government. It is a very politically astute company."

Few residents in the north London suburb doubted that McDonald's would triumph again. They blamed Mr Portillo. Eileen Fowler, 76, a Tory party member who lives opposite the double-fronted Victorian Conservative Association headquarters, said: "I will never vote for Portillo again if he allows this to go ahead."

Mrs Fowler added: "We've been let down very badly. The association is selling to the highest bidder without listening to the ordinary members like me, and Portillo says it is nothing to do with him. It's outrageous."

Her sister, Gwen Gilbertson, 78, who lives nearby, added: "My husband has written to Portillo, along with hundreds of others, but he refuses to take sides. How can he expect us to vote for him

when he acts like this?"

Reg Bird, 87, an association member, said: "Most at that meeting were Conservative voters like me, yet they were booing and heckling him. Portillo quite honestly is a twit. He just tried to hide behind everything."

In the entrance hall of the Conservative association is a letter to members from Lionel Zetter, the chairman, apologising for the fact that the first many of them heard about the £325,000 sale was through local newspapers, after McDonald's issued an "unauthorised" press release.

A spokeswoman for the association said yesterday: "This is a big old house which is being under-used and is expensive to maintain. People who give money to the party want it to go on campaigning, not on repair bills."

McDonald's will fight all the way. It took 13 years to overcome the objections of Hampstead residents to its plans but the company won.

In Leicester last year, having suffered the indignity of losing a planning appeal, McDonald's took the case to the High Court and won.

Few local authorities can resist the approach, known as a "carrot and stick" strategy. Local authorities are threatened with a long and costly appeal if planning permission



Michael Portillo at a McDonald's in his Enfield Southgate constituency in 1994

is refused. Most cash-strapped town halls, informed by QCs that McDonald's always wins, duck the fight early on.

The lobbying is formidable. The company offers hundreds of jobs for unskilled workers. Its commitment to local communities is reinforced through charitable activities. Scope

Communications Management, whose advisers in the past have included the Tory MP Simon Burns, advises on the charity programme.

Free sports equipment is donated to youth groups, coffee mornings are arranged up for pensioners, and business forums set up for local com-

panies. Opponents have labelled the tactics "bribes to the community".

Occasionally, the operation comes unstuck. Last year, plans for a 190-seat "drive-through" restaurant in Finchley were rejected by Barnet council. For once it did not appeal.

## ASA inquiry into 'satanic' Tory image of Blair

By ANDREW PIERCE

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched by the Advertising Standards Authority into a Tory advertisement that depicted Tony Blair with a wide grin and red eyes.

The advertisement was described as a "satanic" image by the Bishop of Oxford. Political advertisements are not governed by the same rules as commercial products. The Conservative Party, however, may have breached the industry code which says that advertisers who have not obtained prior permission from high-profile figures have a duty to ensure that they are not portrayed in an "offensive or adverse" way.

An ASA spokesman said: "We have a duty to investigate. We have had a number of complaints. If the complaint is upheld the ASA can compel the Tories to withdraw the advertisement."

Peter Mandelson, head of Labour's election planning unit, said: "I hope that everyone who is offended by this grotesque image will register their objection with the ASA."

## Security guards may be vetted under new rules

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of private guards face vetting under Home Office proposals to clean up the security industry. Under plans launched yesterday, an independent agency would check whether a guard had a criminal record and would keep a register of applicants. If they had convictions the agency would refuse them clearance to work.

New legislation would make it an offence to employ a guard who had not been given clearance and it would be an offence for anyone to work as a guard without first being scrutinised by the agency.

The agency and its operations would be self-financing and could cost at least £1 million a year. Employees or companies would pay for the clearance checks. Home Office officials believe at least 49,000 guards would be covered by the proposals now being considered by the security industry's leaders and police.

The proposals follow a report last year from the Commons select committee on Home Affairs which called for strict regulation of the industry

including the licensing of guards. The MPs heard evidence from police that up to 2,600 crimes are committed each year by guards. In one company, 11 out of 26 employees had previous convictions ranging from rape to assault.

Announcing the proposals yesterday, David Maclean, a Home Office minister, said most areas of the security industry were covered by effective self-regulation. But he said the public was worried about contract security guards.

The Association of Chief Police Officers and the Police Superintendents' Association welcomed the proposals.

Tony Makosinski, of the British Security Industries Association, said: "We are happy, this takes us in the right direction. It doesn't go far enough but it's a good start."

Bruce George, Labour MP for Walsall South, a campaigner for tighter controls said: "This is a feeble, limited and panicky reaction to the growing demand for regulation of the industry."

## RAF flies blindly into the future

By MICHAEL EVANS

RAF bomber pilots of the future may have to learn to fly "blind", sitting in a closed cockpit and relying on sensors to judge where they are going.

The scrapping of the traditional perspex cockpit is one of a number of concepts being studied by RAF experts who have been asked to produce ideas for a bomber to replace the Tornado GR4 by 2015. The "hard cover" option has been included because of the threat of laser weapons that could blind pilots.

More than 140 Tornado GR4s are currently being updated with new weapon systems, pilot displays and avionics, all of which should be in service by 2002. However, by 2015 the Tornado



A BAE impression of the Future Offensive Aircraft

airframe will have flown more than double the hours originally anticipated — 9,000 instead of 4,000 — and the RAF said yesterday work needed to start now on a replacement.

With technologies advanc-

ing at a rapid rate, the RAF experts have a list of replacement options that include flying unmanned aircraft and using VC10-size planes to launch long-range missiles.

However, RAF pilots are convinced the day of the unmanned combat aircraft has not yet arrived and that the Future Offensive Aircraft, as it is known, will be flown by air crews.

Even so, one of the concepts to be examined is for unmanned air vehicles (UAVs), or remotely piloted aircraft, to be used as bomb carriers. Existing UAVs, like the Israeli battlefield drones, are used for reconnaissance.

RAF sources said yesterday they did not believe the technology for arming UAVs with a payload of bombs would be ready in time to replace the Tornado GR4. Other unmanned aircraft could be "flown" remotely from a distance by a pilot sitting in an Awacs command and control plane.

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Mugger turned into a murderer after buying pistols through small ads in a magazine

# Killer made mother kneel then shot her in the head

BY LIN JENKINS

A MUGGER who turned into a compulsive killer after buying guns by mail order was given four life sentences yesterday for murdering a woman and trying to kill three other people.

Richard Humphrey, who was armed with a .22 semi-automatic pistol that had been delivered to his home, also committed two robberies and firearms offences in the space of four months last year. Sir Lawrence Verney, Recorder of London, referred during sentencing to coverage of the Commons Home Affairs Select Committee's refusal to ban guns: "This is something of great public concern and those who have to make decisions will perhaps take note that it was a .22 which caused the damage in this case. That you were able to obtain the pistol and ammunition is deplorable."

Humphrey, 22, of Brixton, south London, murdered Victoria Odususi, 36, wife of a Nigerian airline official, for no apparent reason as she returned home from a prayer meeting. Mrs Odususi, 34, a mother of two, was made to kneel and was shot in the back of the head.

The judge said: "The murder was against a woman who was a complete stranger, a lady of whom everybody spoke well. It was a wanton and cruel killing and has caused immense grief."

Wing Commander Peter Drissell, 40, was shot seven times when Humphrey and an accomplice, Paul Ammah, tried to mug him. The officer was hurrying from the Ministry of Defence to his home in Clapham so that he could watch his favourite television programme, *Absolutely Fabulous*.

He allowed Humphrey and Ammah to search him to verify his claim that he had no money. As they did so Carol Bell, 32, a betting-shop cashier, who was pregnant at the time, demanded that they



Wing Commander Peter Drissell and his wife



The murder of Victoria Odususi was wanton and cruel, said the Recorder of London, Sir Lawrence Verney

leave him alone. "He calmly pointed the gun at me and fired," she told the Old Bailey. "I heard the bang, I put my hand down and he fired at me again. I could not believe what was happening."

The bullets missed. In the split second that Humphrey was distracted, Wing Com-

mander Drissell, who is 5ft 5in, threw himself at the gunman. He was shot at close range and left for dead. His doctor said that he survived only because his muscle bulk was considerably greater than average. Four of the bullets remain in his body.

Wing Commander Drissell

told the court: "I took a calculated risk, deciding I had to try to take the gun from him. I got near enough to touch the gun, but he pulled away and left me somewhat vulnerable. I was standing there having missed the gun. I crouched and, basically, he shot me."

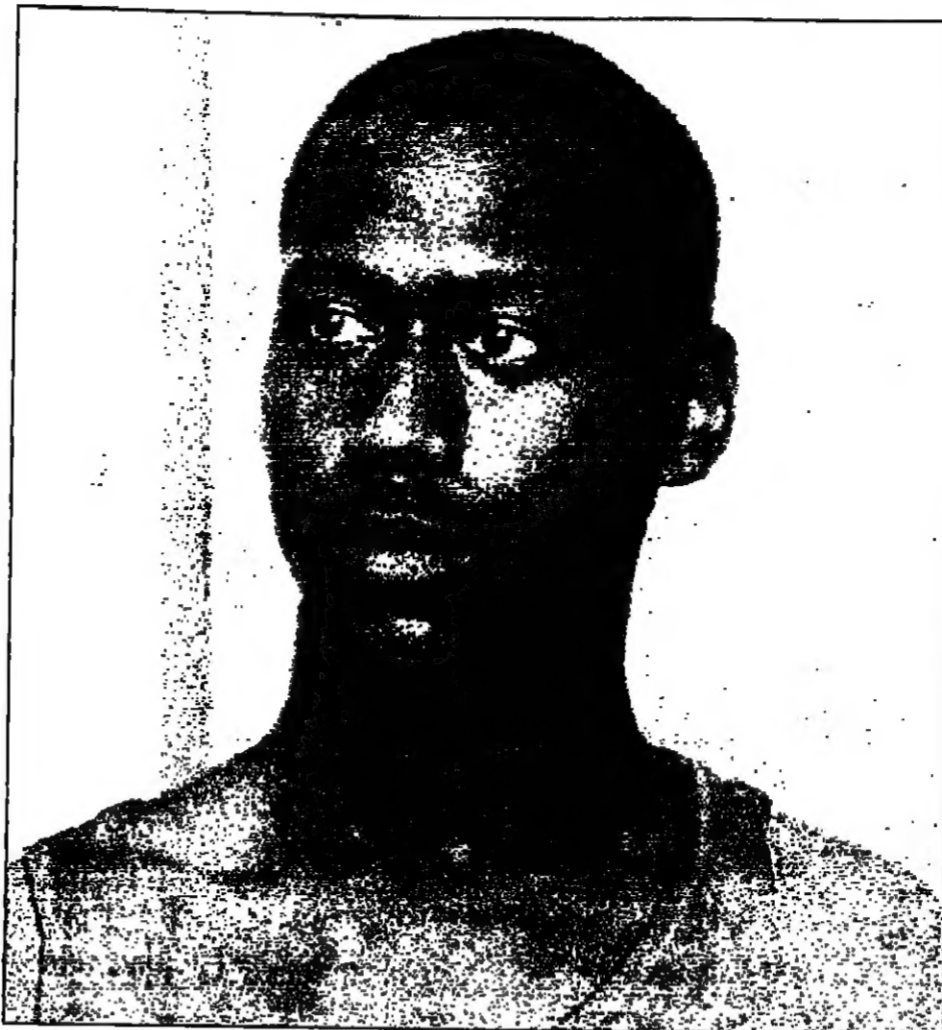
"The first two shots hit me in the forearm. One of them went into my body, passing through my wallet and into my chest. Other shots followed and it seemed to be happening in slow motion. It seemed to go on for a long time."

Michael Perry, a disc jockey at Caribbean Raves, was shot in the wrist. The bullet deflected off a gold bracelet into his arm when Humphrey accused him of "eyeballing" him on Stockwell Tube station. On April 11 last year Humphrey fired a shot into the ground beside Mark Rogers as he was selling clothes in Brixton.

As the jury returned its verdicts on the third day of deliberations, Humphrey stared at them and shouted: "Senseless racist bastards." Ammah, 22, of Clapham, was jailed for six years for robbery and for possessing a weapon with intent to endanger life.

Alan Newman, QC, for Humphrey, had pleaded that he not be made a scapegoat "for the failure of society to regulate its affairs by making it much harder for people such as Richard Humphrey to obtain guns". He added: "If guns could not be traded simply by putting personal ads in magazines like *Gun Mart*, Mr Humphrey would never have obtained the weapons which were used in his trail of destruction."

He was a mugger and robber who moved up a league when he found how easy it was to buy guns through the small advertisements in *Gun Mart*. He answered an advertisement from John Anderson in Chelmsford, who wanted to buy a pistol. Tricked into thinking Humphrey had one

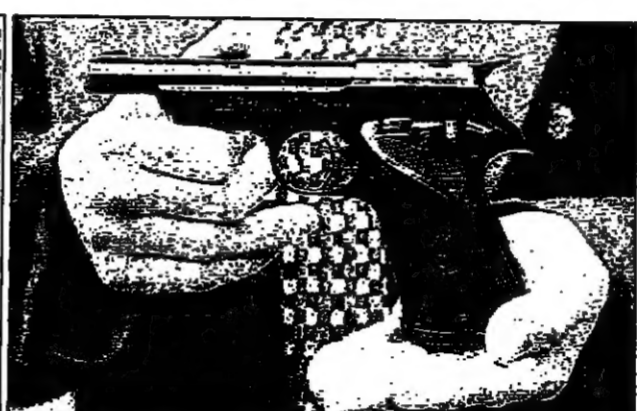


Richard Humphrey bought guns by answering advertisements in the magazine *Gun Mart*. Below left is a replica of the .22 with which he shot Mrs Odususi



for sale, Mr Anderson sent off his firearms certificate in compliance with the rules.

Using Mr Anderson's certificate, Humphrey bought guns and ammunition for £230 from Malcolm Ridgeway in Somerset, who dispatched them by courier. When Mr Ridgeway discovered the deceit, he alerted the police. They



arrived 20 minutes after Humphrey had signed for the weapons. There was no trace of him or the guns, save for a hole in the bedroom wall where one had been fired.

A 10-year-old boy who helped to trap Humphrey was given a £100 reward by the judge. He commended William Taffe, who saw Hum-

phrey as he shot Wing Commander Drissell and appeared as a witness.

William rang the police and picked up the shells from Humphrey's pistol. "He was an entirely self-possessed boy and gave valuable evidence in a mature manner," the judge said. The money will be taken out of public funds.

## Boys saw friend, 11, savaged to death

BY A STAFF REPORTER

TWO schoolboys told an inquest jury yesterday how they watched Rottweiler dogs savage an 11-year-old friend to death. Anthony Pickup, 13, and Mark Farran, 10, said "three big black dogs" tore David Kearney apart on the night before Christmas Eve.

David, from Darwen in Lancashire, died 10 days later from his injuries. He had been carol singing with five friends when he climbed into a yard in an attempt to hide from a friend "bugging" him.

Police said there were no signs warning people to beware of the dogs and likened them to a "pack of lions" that gave David no chance. Kevin Tierney, the dogs' owner, told the inquest he had thought his 6ft fence was adequate. He never thought the dogs could be killers.

Anthony told the inquest at Blackburn Town Hall that he and Mark had managed to scramble back over the fence when the dogs came running, then watched through a gap as they savaged their friend. "The dogs jumped on him. One ran and got him and David was trying to shake him off. Then the other two followed and got him and pushed him on to the floor."

In a statement read by police, Mark Farran had said: "I could see David lying on the ground with three dogs biting his legs. They ripped his shoes and clothes off."

Two of Mr Tierney's four dogs, Jet and George, were destroyed after the attack at his own request, but he insisted the other two had been inside the house at the time. Graham Gabbot, the vet who put the dogs down, said: "I suggested that the socially responsible thing to do would be to have all the dogs destroyed, but the owner was unwilling and would only give permission for two."

In his often tearful testimony, Mr Tierney said he thought he had done everything possible to prevent such an incident.

The hearing continues.

## 'Once caring' Cunard ordered to pay refund

BY KATELIN KNIGHT

CUNARD, a name synonymous with genteel sea travel, was criticised for abusing its power yesterday by refusing to refund a disabled pensioner turned away from a cruise.

Judge Matthewman, QC, condemned the "meanly-mouthed" attitude that had led to June Tomlinson, 62, who is wheelchair-bound, and her husband ending the £1266 cruise on the *Cunard Princess* only five hours after boarding.

The judge told Nottingham County Court that it was plain Cunard, which has endured a series of embarrassments in recent years, had been "less than helpful" to the couple and had abused its power by refusing a refund.

"I'm afraid Cunard, a once great and caring company, tried to use its contractual power and muscle to prevent a perfectly honest and decent woman who happened to be disabled and in a wheelchair from getting what she is entitled to," he said.

Mrs Tomlinson, 62, was born with spastic diplegia. She had declared on her booking form that she was in a wheelchair but said that she could take a few steps. When she arrived to board the ship in Malaga, however, her legs had swollen during the long journey and a doctor on board declared her unfit to travel.

Giving evidence, her husband Arthur said crew members had told them that if they stayed on board they would have to remain in their cabin for the two-week cruise around the Canary Islands. "I said, 'If that's it, then we're getting off. We didn't spend all that money to stop in the cabin,'" Cunard said that the couple were not entitled to a

refund because Mrs Tomlinson's condition had deteriorated greatly and she had made clear the extent of her disability.

The brochure says that the ship is not designed for disabled passengers and that they may find their enjoyment curtailed. Judge Matthewman said: "This seems to be one of the most meanly-mouthed warnings made by a supposedly caring company. It is possible to find."

He added that Cunard's directors and medical staff might like to rethink their policy on disabled people.

The judge ruled that the couple had complied with the terms of their contract and ordered Cunard to refund the fare with interest, and to pay their legal fees.

After the hearing Mrs Tomlinson, of Bestwood Park,

Nottinghamshire, said they had not expected to win the case. "I came to court with the attitude that I wasn't going to win it. I'm just getting over the shock."

Cunard has had a series of debacles in recent years. One liner was holed in the Red Sea and another cruise ended when the ship had to be towed to the Philippines. The company had to pay £7.5 million compensation to passengers on the QE2's first cruise after its refit in 1994, because the work had not been completed.

A spokesman for Cunard offered apologies to the Tomlinsons. "Our concerns were always for her safety throughout the cruise. We will review the way in which we deal with future passenger refunds."

Travel news, pages 20, 21



June and Arthur Tomlinson left the cruise after being told that they must stay in their cabin

## Top referee guilty of sex assault

ONE of England's most experienced football referees was convicted yesterday of indecently assaulting a young man. A year ago he was convicted of theft and burglary.

Last October Michael Peck, 50, a father of two and the Football League's former director of refereeing, escaped with a 200-hour community service order after Carlisle Crown Court was told how he stole from a string of hotel rooms as he toured the country from match to match. He had admitted four counts of burglary and nine of theft but asked for 70 more offences to be taken into consideration.

The hearing last year was told the burglaries and thefts were connected to unspecified personal problems he had been facing.

Yesterday magistrates at Kendal in Cumbria were told how Peck met a 24-year-old man in a Kendal pub on April 14 this year, invited him back to his house, where he pushed him onto a couch.

Richard Henderson, for the prosecution, said the assault happened after Peck and the other man had met for "a few drinks" in the Ring O'Bells pub, where they mainly discussed football. But afterwards they drove to Peck's home, stopping at an off-licence to buy a bottle of wine and to rent a video. The young man had said that once in Peck's home the two talked about football but then Peck changed the conversation to fashion and sex.

Peck, who was defending himself, denied the charge. He said the allegation was "but a figment of imagination".

Sentencing was adjourned until September 2.

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## Alien kidnappings 'are all a dream'

PEOPLE who believe they have been kidnapped by aliens have simply been dreaming, a leading researcher into the paranormal said yesterday. However real sleep paralysis is a common experience, shared by up to three out of ten people.

The dreamer hears strange noises, sees flashing lights or stars and senses shaking or juddering. Some feel they have been turned in their

beds, while others report sexual encounters.

"It happens to perfectly normal people," Dr Blackmore says. "It can be confusing and distressing. The next line of my research is to try to find a scientific explanation for what is happening physiologically."

Dr Blackmore says that many cultures have myths based on the phenomenon of sleep paralysis. In medieval Britain "night demons" se-

duced innocent people. In Newfoundland there are tales of an "old hag" night visitor and in Vietnam it is a "grey ghost".

"Nowadays people are more likely to report that a four-foot tall alien with big, slanty black eyes took them from their room at night and whisked them off in a space ship where they were operated on, or sexually manipulated, and returned to bed with an hour or two," she said.

Dr Blackmore, of the University of Bristol, has identified "sleep paralysis" as the likely culprit for most alien kidnap experiences. Although only a few people report alien encounters, she has found that sleep paralysis is a common experience, shared by up to three out of ten people.

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By KATE HARRISON

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Parents pay tribute to 'extraordinary' son as clergy urge greater protection in inner cities

# Murdered vicar accepted risks of urban ministry

By KATE ALDERSON

THE parents of the Rev Christopher Gray, the gifted Church of England vicar who was stabbed to death outside his vicarage in Liverpool, spoke movingly yesterday of how he had given himself to the Church.

Dr Philip Gray, 63, and his wife, Margaret, 64, from Gosport, Hampshire, had been on holiday in Northumberland when they heard of their son's death. They identified his body yesterday.

Dr Gray said he knew that his son had been involved in work which carried risk. "It is a measure of his character that he was to shield us from the full knowledge of the risks he was taking," he said during a news conference with his wife. "There was nothing we could do to lessen them in any way. He had chosen to accept those risks and we therefore had to accept his risks."

His wife spoke only once, saying: "He was an extraordinary son and I adored him." Mr Gray, 32, who was described by the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, as one of the most able priests of his generation,



Christopher Gray: held hostage in previous job

ation, was stabbed to death outside his vicarage next to St Margaret's Church, Anfield. He had been seen talking to a man outside the vicarage shortly before the attack.

It was disclosed yesterday that Mr Gray, who became the vicar of St Margaret's 18 months ago, had been burgled and held hostage two years ago by a man in another Liverpool parish. The attack, when Mr Gray was a curate, is understood to have come as he was counselling a young

man. The assailant was jailed for 18 months.

Dr Gray, who spoke calmly and compassionately about his son, said that he would be dreadfully missed. He said that he was different things to different people: to his parishioners he was a well-loved priest and to the academic community he was a scholar of high repute.

He did not blame any organisation or place for his son's death. "I think he probably felt that the city [of Liverpool] had great deprivation and there were many needs in the city, some of which he felt he could cater to."

"He was very happy in Liverpool, he liked the people, the diocese. The jobs he did were jobs that were not immediately attractive. There were risks to his property, to his life. He cheerfully accepted these."

Police were questioning a 31-year-old man yesterday in connection with the murder. Terence Storey, from Liverpool, was arrested in Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside, after a tip-off. A man and a woman were also arrested.

Robert Runcie, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Philip and Margaret Gray yesterday. "He was an extraordinary son and I adored him," his mother said

## Call for personal alarms after second attack

CLERGY demanded last night that women priests be given personal alarms to protect them against violent attack and urged a review of security for all priests.

The call followed news of a second attack on a vicar. The Rev Nduna Mponzi, 50, was in hospital with serious head injuries last night after being attacked with an axe by a man who had sought his help over

marital difficulties. Mr Mponzi, from South Africa, is curate of St Mary and All Saints in Palfrey, Walsall.

The Rev Stephen Trotter, of the clergy section of the MSF union, wrote to Lambeth Palace yesterday demanding a working party to review personal security. He said that when he was a curate in Hull he had to cover his clerical collar with a scarf or

coat to avoid attack. "In the case of female clergy, personal attack alarms would be a very good idea."

The Right Rev Christopher Hill, Bishop of Stafford, said that clergy might have to abandon inner cities if they did not receive urgent advice on security. He was backed by the Rt Rev Roger Sainsbury, Bishop of Barking, who chairs an advisory group

on urban priority areas for the Church. Bishop Sainsbury said there had been several incidents in the past five years of attacks on priests and their families.

"We must have priests who can get out and mix with people, but we need to have some advice and be prepared. I hope that we will still have this total commitment to staying in the city."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Policeman sacked for assault

A policeman based at Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, has been forced to resign after a disciplinary hearing upheld complaints that he had assaulted an Asian man. He was charged with abuse of authority at a two-day police hearing. The Police Complaints Authority said it had agreed with the recommendation that the officer should be required to resign.

## BSE outbreak

A new case of BSE has been discovered in Co. Cork. The herd of 75 dairy cows will be slaughtered, as will any others found to have been in contact with the affected cow. It is the twenty-second case identified this year in Ireland.

## Canal explosion

Two men, aged 76 and 66, were badly burnt when a boat exploded on the Grand Union Canal at Blisworth, Northamptonshire. One suffered 30 per cent burns and the other 10 per cent burns. The boat was destroyed.

## Vote bunkered

The unopposed election in June of Carmel Murphy, a teacher, as first woman leader of Co. Cork's Kinsale Urban District Council, has been declared invalid because it took place at a licensed golf club. She must run for office again.

## Callers see red

Two new red BT phone boxes, based on the traditional models that were phased out after 1985, went into use near Westminster Cathedral for a short trial. Five thousand are to be installed across the country at a cost of £5 million.

## Caroline Parr

A report (Diary, August 6) stated that James Hewitt's PR woman was Caroline Parr and that she was present throughout his mother's interview with *Hello!* magazine. Although Mrs Parr helped to organise the meeting, she does not represent Mr Hewitt and was not present at the interview. We apologise for the misunderstanding and any inconvenience caused to Mrs Parr.

# Icy depths of Jupiter's moon could hold evidence of life in space

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

NEW pictures of one of Jupiter's moons, Europa, have provided tantalising hints that icy floes on its surface may be melting on slush or even water. If so, Europa could harbour some form of life. Liquid water is the most important ingredient for life and Europa could have much more of it than Mars.

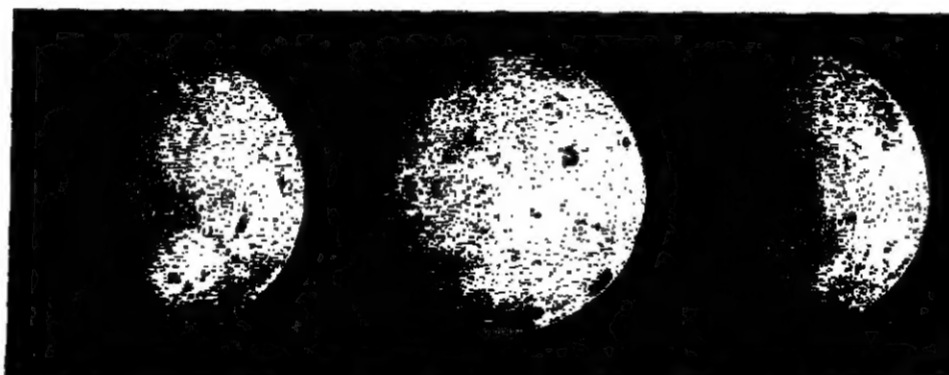
The new images were taken by the spacecraft Galileo from a distance of 96,000 miles. Scientists at a press conference organised by Nasa said they showed a surface dotted by a series of dark spots that could be the scars of geysers.

Galileo also produced the

best pictures yet of Io, another of Jupiter's moons, providing evidence of volcanic activity. The pictures show that Io has large red expanses, closely linked to recent volcanic deposits, around a volcano named Pele. Other images show a huge plume of blue-coloured sulphur dioxide rising from a volcano named Ra Patera.

"It's really exciting," Professor Ronald Greeley of Arizona State University said of the Europa discovery. He described the surface as resembling "ice-floes on polar seas on Earth".

The possibility that the icy



Photographs of Jupiter's moon, Io, showed evidence of volcanic activity

slabs are moving around on a lubricating layer of relatively warm, mushy ice may mean that strong tidal forces are at

work, cracking the crust. And, Professor Greeley said, the more geologically active Europa turns out to be, the more

likely it is to have niches that could harbour life.

Europa is the fourth largest moon of Jupiter and the

smallest to be seen by Galileo when he first pointed his telescope at the heavens in 1610. Its diameter is almost 1,900 miles, making it marginally smaller than our Moon.

Its surface temperature, at -145C, is low, but the ice crust that covers the surface may be only a few miles thick. Beneath it, according to Dr Ralph Lorenz of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona, there may be huge oceans of water up to 30 miles deep. Europa is five times further from the Sun than the Earth, so if there is liquid water it could be kept that way only by radioactive heat from the centre, or by tidal forces — the squeezing

and stretching it gets from being close to Jupiter.

Professor Greeley said that the new pictures, taken on June 27, allowed scientists to see "details not even suspected" from pictures returned in 1979 by the Voyager spacecraft; for example, the icy slabs appear thinner than scientists thought.

Galileo, launched in 1989, has been returning a steady stream of Jupiter moon close-ups, each opening scientists' eyes to new details and hints about geology. They are anxiously anticipating even better pictures from a December flyby, when Galileo will pass within 600 miles of Europa.

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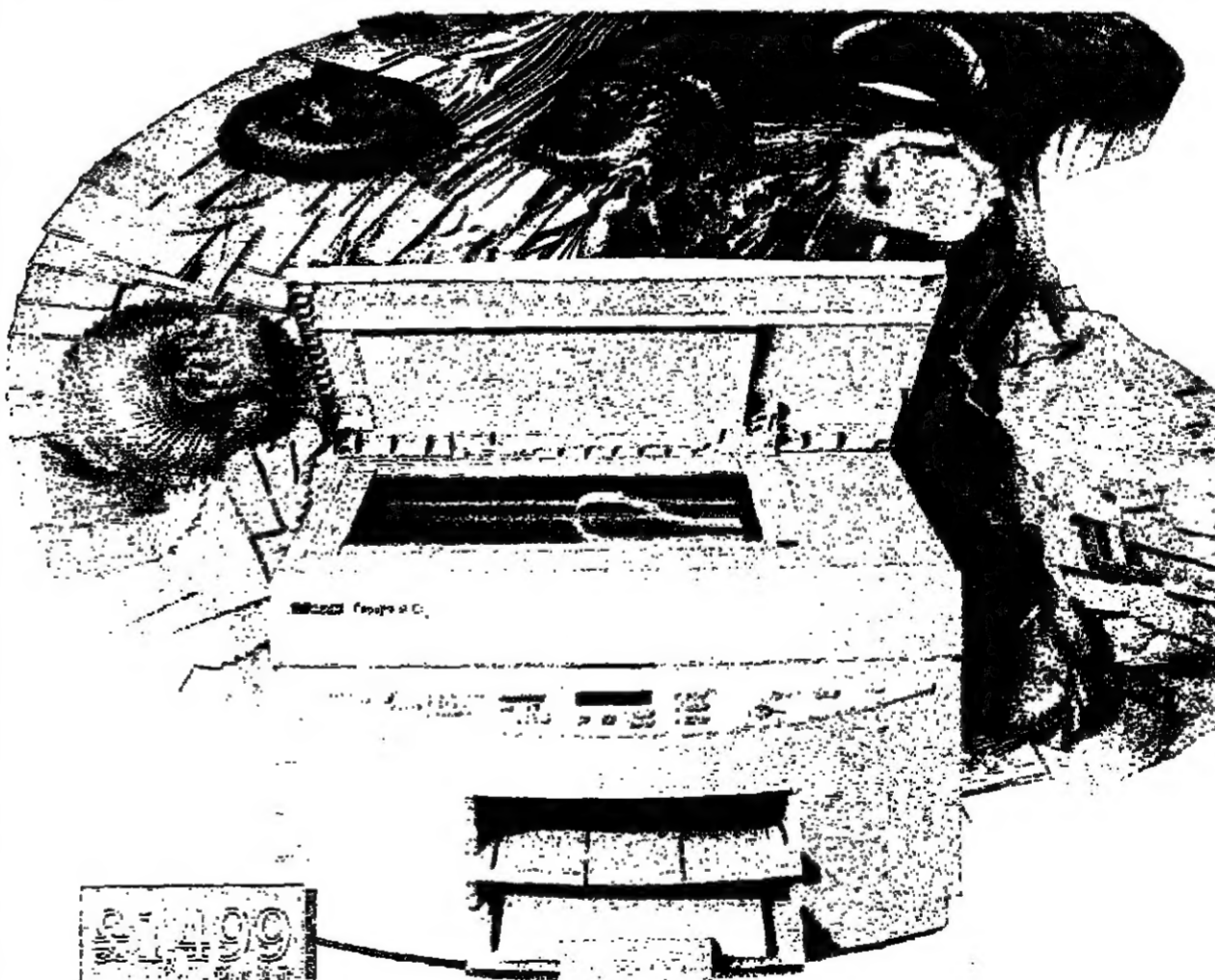
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# Offshore wind farm stirs up concerns for wildlife

BY PETER FOSTER

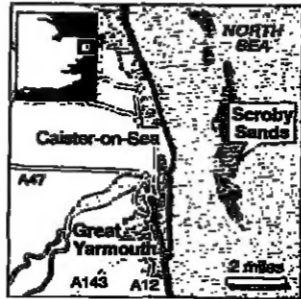
A PLAN to build the world's largest offshore wind farm two miles from the Norfolk coast provoked serious concern among naturalists yesterday, although environmentalists gave the scheme a cautious welcome.

The £35 million development proposed by PowerGen, the electricity-generating company, would consist of 25 giant wind turbines sunk into a sandbank off Great Yarmouth. Scroby Sands is used by up to 200 grey and common seals as a basking area and is a feeding ground for birds such as the little tern.

Professor John Harwood,

head of the Sea Mammal Research Unit based at St Andrews University, said the bank was the only basking area of its kind for 50 or 60 miles. "There must be a major study by engineers and oceanographers to assess the impact of this development and its long-term effect on the size of the sandbank." It was possible the seals would return after the site was completed. "There are seals that breed in The Wash on the boundaries of a bombing range."

Paul Lewis of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said: "We would be very concerned if the project im-



pacted on the little tern population who use the bank for feeding. We would also be anxious to ensure the turbines don't affect Britain's largest breeding colony of little terns on North Denes beach, just off Great Yarmouth, which is

designated a special protection area under European law."

PowerGen is seeking government approval for the scheme, which could generate enough electricity to meet the daily needs of a town of 56,000 people. The Crown Estates, which owns Scroby Sands, said yesterday it was prepared to negotiate an agreement if approval was forthcoming.

A spokesman for PowerGen said the 190ft-high turbines would be sunk into the northern end of Scroby Sands, well away from the seals' basking area. "We have done a lot of environmental development work and have deliberately proposed a site which is always under water and not used by the seals."

The Council for the Protection of Rural England, which has campaigned against wind farms on the Yorkshire moors and the Brecon Beacons, said: "In principle we are not against a scheme which takes into account our previous objections to wind farms. It would not spoil the landscape and would be noiseless."

Anna Stanford, energy campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said that if an environmental impact study gave the area a clean bill of health, her organisation would support the scheme. "As well as being beneficial for the environment, wind power is an export and employment opportunity and we are delighted that a company is at last acting to develop it."

## Power plan for Brent Spar

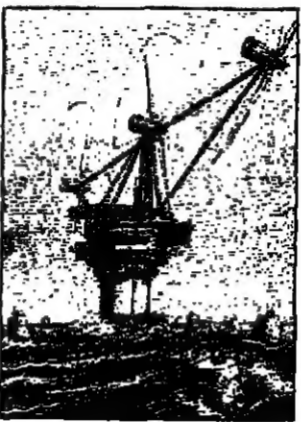
BY NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Brent Spar oil platform could finish its life festooned with windmills and wave power machines. The suggestion, by a Dutch consortium, is among 30 ideas being studied by Shell for disposing of its ill-fated platform after plans to dump it in the Atlantic raised the hackles of environmentalists.

Hollandia and Volker Stevin Offshore, two engineering contractors, are behind the eco-friendly power station idea. They say that the upper part of Brent Spar

should be refurbished and fitted with three windmills, each capable of generating three megawatts of electricity. Later, wave power generators, each capable of generating 0.7 megawatts, would be attached to the platform. When complete, it could generate 19 megawatts of electricity which would be sent through a power line to the shore from a site off the west coast of Scotland.

The power station is the most unusual of the 30 proposals Shell is studying, more than half of which are for on-shore dismantling or scrapping.



An impression of Brent Spar as an energy plant



Janette Proud shows off 17-week-old daughter Sophie, nicknamed "Stroppy Proud" after surviving a premature birth weighing only nine ounces, heart and eye operations and pneumonia. Her twin sister died at birth. Mrs Proud, a teacher, of Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, said: "She's a miracle"

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## Why high-tech Hamlet failed to do his turn

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A DAY after faulty technology put a stop to the opening night of a one-man reworking of *Hamlet*, the Canadian actor-director Robert Lepage acknowledged that the reliance on high-tech, multi-media equipment was "a bit too risky".

*Elsinore*, which was to have had a five-night run at the King's Theatre, was let down by one of the four motors turning the revolve, which would have picked up the large and elaborate sets. Everything had depended on it. "A remarkable synthesis of dazzling theatre technology and cinematic convention" was promised.

All had been working smoothly during the rehearsals. Over the past six months of an international tour, there had been the occasional "crash-down", Lepage explained, but nothing that had ever caused a cancellation.

At the eleventh hour, it was impossible to find an alternative production to fill the King's Theatre. Nearly 3,000 tickets had been sold for the run. It was to have been the British premiere of a play which *The Times*, at its Brussels performance, described as "a one-man show of beguiling originality".

Initially, an electrical fault was suspected. Like so many let down by electrical faults, those involved in *Elsinore* discovered that it was all down to a spare part that was unavailable in this country. "There was no example of it here," Lepage said.

Brian McMaster, director of the festival, was unable to comment on reports that the cancellation would cost £100,000. "We have an insurance policy," he said.

He emphasised that discussions were under way for Lepage to return to next year's festival. "He is one of the

great people working in theatre today. You have to take an incomparable number of risks. Some of those risks don't come off."

The show will be seen, if not in Edinburgh, on a tour that will include Nottingham, Newcastle upon Tyne, Glasgow, Cambridge and at the National Theatre in London.

One Aberdeen company at the festival fringe has sold only 55 of 2,200 tickets for an 11-day run of its biblical rock musical. The cast of 60 of Key is in danger of outnumbering the audience every night: their makeshift theatre seats 200. Yesterday the Key booking-sheet showed that not one of the 55 tickets had been sold for two of the performances. On most nights only two or three people are expected.

Derek Keith, an acoustics engineer and musician who has written and produced Key, said: "We won't let it get to us. We know it's a top-notch show. That's the frustrating part. You come to the fringe and expect an audience."

Festival news, page 33

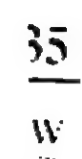


Lepage: admitted that show was too risky

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As the nation's students brace for delight or despair, a veteran of post-results counselling offers advice

## Standing by with congratulations and commiserations

BY DAVID CHARTER  
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

AT 10 am sharp today, John Moore will pin up the A-level grades achieved by his 114 pupils.

It is a ritual he has observed over 13 years as a headmaster but he is still infected by the same sense of nervous excitement which draws students to The King's School, Worcester, from an hour or more before the list goes up.

This is also a public ritual, one which many heads have abandoned for fear of upsetting youngsters whose grades do not meet expectations. That view is not shared at The King's School.

"Some schools keep everything secret and only issue the results to individual candidates but I find that absolutely unacceptable," says Mr Moore, who aims to arrive at 7.30 am today to begin collating results. They must be thoroughly checked before they go on display.

This is information about the school and pupils want to know how their friends have got on, which is perfectly reasonable," he says.

"I also know some pupils



John Moore: infected by pupils' excitement

is not the figures, it is whether the pupils have what they need for their next step. I know which universities students have applied to, the offers they have and their predicted grades. I probably won't check the whole lot until the evening because my first job is to deal with whoever walks through the door."

His director of sixth form, careers department and pastoral staff are all in.

"If someone has just missed the grades they need for their first-choice university, the first thing is to get hold of the university and see if they will accept them anyway," says Mr Moore. "There used to be a request from universities that you should not phone until the following Monday but no one took much notice of that." The school will ensure that the pupils themselves make any calls to universities over the coming days.

"Their university application is the first important thing they sign in their lives," he says. "It is not their parents' responsibility, it is up to them to talk to people."

Mr Moore worries that successful students are in danger of being overlooked today,



The way they were: the wait ends for pupils at a Cheshire school last year. At The King's School, Worcester, results are posted on a notice board

both by staff concentrating on disappointed pupils and by the focus on statistics.

"Of course, I am delighted when pupils do well, which can be four grade As or it can be two grade Ds and an E, which in some cases is a miracle. This is where league tables, particularly those constructed on A and B grades, drive me spare. They imply a C is a failure and devalue real achievement. One of my best bits of teaching was helping a pupil get an E grade."

School admissions policy

will remain unchanged whether or not the school betters last year's 58 per cent A and B grade pass rate.

"We are in the business of education and will not withdraw any candidate from a subject because he or she might fail, nor will we refuse admission to the sixth form because they might get D or E grades," says Mr Moore. "They have the right to be educated and take an examination at the end of their course and you are quite often agreeably surprised." He

adds: "It does not bother me enormously if the school's league table position goes up or down because it is just one aspect of what a school does, and, arguably, not the most important, which is educating the whole pupil, producing a confident person who is well-prepared for the next stage and can cope with life."

Inevitably some pupils will be very upset, he says. "The most important thing is not to rush into any sort of decision on a tide of emotion immediately following the results."

## The agony and the ecstasy that shape our lives



Results day for the class of '83 began and ended for Carol Midgley, pictured left at the age of 19, in the bathroom of her parents' home

THERE are few experiences in life that are inexorably stamped on our souls, returning regularly to haunt us in our sleep. My driving test, once a source of terror every waking hour, is now but a distant and vaguely smug memory. Recollections of my 18th birthday, the supposed milestone of life and gateway to adulthood, faded almost immediately in a haze of alcohol.

But there is one event whose memory will never leave me, never fail to induce a prickle of nausea in the pit of the stomach. Be assured, the day you get your A-level results is the day you visit purgatory.

That dismally rainy Thursday in August 1983 began much as it ended — with me being copiously sick in my parents' bathroom. Several drinks the night before had not anaesthetised the feeling of panic and by 6 am the butterflies in my stomach had become a flock of birds.

Sleep had come fitfully, punctuated by a conveyor belt of dreams about possible scenarios the next day. I knew what I needed — just three Bs — to get into my chosen university, Leeds, to read English literature. If I fell short of those grades I might be forced in the direction of my second choice, a Midlands-based university which I had decided I would rather attend. Everything hinged on that Thursday.

Our college, a modern sixth-form in Lancashire, had given us the choice of coming in person to collect the results (inviting public ridicule or public glory) or waiting for them to arrive by post the next day (out of the question). I had a near-pathological hatred for those with the cool confidence to wait that extra 24 hours or, worse, the ultra-nonchalants

who were away on holiday and would "give the admin office a ring some time".

I was battering down the door at 9 am pronto, clutching a pen and paper to record the grades as if there was any chance that I would forget.

The college had decided against pinning the results, the notice-board as a gesture of respect for our feelings and to avoid a violent storm. Instead we had to queue to enter a small room where a tutor ran his finger along the chart and read out our grades.

His face broadened into a smile as I shuffled in and I knew instantly that, unless he was some kind of sadist, it would be all right. "Nice results, nice results," he said amiably, in no hurry to part with the information. Finally he came out with it — 2 As and a B — in words which I heard in slow motion.

I made him check and re-check, pressing my nose against the paper, before being confident enough to walk out. Then I started to cry, not because I was happy to be going to university but out of sheer relief that I would never have to go through this nightmare again.

The rest of that day passed in a daze celebrating fellow students, ending up in an Indian restaurant and being ill again at home, this time not from nerves.

It is no good anyone saying that you can "always take them again" or "I'm sure Sunderland Poly will be just as good". It isn't true.

And today, when I hear that A-level passes have hit a record high for the 15th successive year and the pass rate has increased 16 per cent since 1982, I confess to a twinge of resentment that the exams seem to be easier.

Why shouldn't everyone have to suffer like we did?

### HELPLINES

■ Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Inquiry Line 01242-227788. Information for candidates (quoting their UCAS number) on the progress of their application but no course vacancy details: 8 am to 6 pm Mon to Fri, 9 am to 5 pm Saturdays, 9 am to 5 pm on Sun Aug 18 and 25. After September 20, normal service is resumed.

■ BBC Student Choice Helpline 0800-100900. Course vacancies and advice. 8 am to 8 pm today and tomorrow, 10 am to 6 pm Sat, 10 am to 9.30 pm Sun, 10 am to 6 pm Mon Aug 19, 10 am to 6 pm Tues 20 to Thurs 22, 10 am to 6 pm Fri 23.

■ Student Choice 96 — BBC2. Advice on options, 6.50 pm, Sun Aug 18. Money advice, 7.20 pm, Aug 20. Accommodation, 8.20 pm, 19, then 5.50 pm to 8 pm on Aug 20, 21, 22 & 23.

■ Gabbittas Educational Consultants 0171-734 0161. Free advice on the choice of independent colleges for re-takes, charges for personal consultations on clearing and higher education.

■ SKILL (National Bureau for Students with Disability), 0171-274 0565.

■ Student Awards Agency Scotland 0131-556 8400. For inquiries about grants for students from Scotland.

■ Grant advice in England and Wales. Call your local education authority.

■ Student Grants and Loans — information booklet free from the Department for Education and Employment 0171-510 0150.

■ Student Course Vacancy Service on Channel Four page 640. Course vacancies including Higher National Diplomas.

■ UKCOSA (United Kingdom Council for Overseas Student Affairs), 0171-226 3762.

■ ECCTIS 2000. The computer information service in public libraries will run course vacancies. Mon Aug 19 to Sunday Sep 15.

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With modular courses and competition between the big four examiners, picking subjects is not easy

## Interest in science continues to decline

By JOHN O'LEARY  
EDUCATION EDITOR  
AND DAVID CHARTER

TEENAGERS are continuing to shun the sciences, in spite of the Government's attempt to boost the subjects, today's A-level results show. Physics, chemistry and combined sciences all had fewer entries in a year when the overall number of A-level candidates rose.

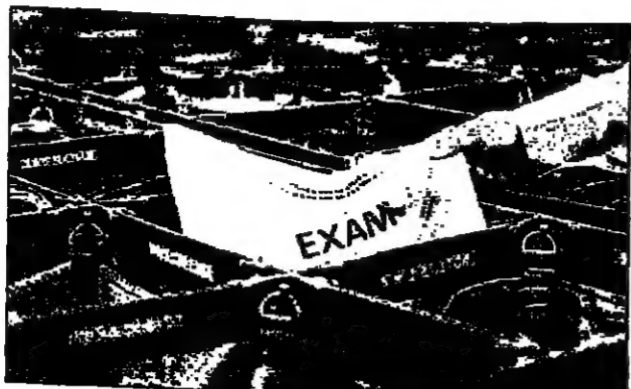
Ministers have been trying to encourage more sixth-formers to take science subjects, to cope with the demands of the 21st-century labour market. But the decline in entries accelerated this summer and is not expected to recover next year.

Bryan Davies, Labour's further and higher education spokesman, said that the drop showed there was no room for complacency in the overall results. The number of students specialising in mathematics and the sciences had fallen from 30 per cent in 1984 to less than 17 per cent this year.

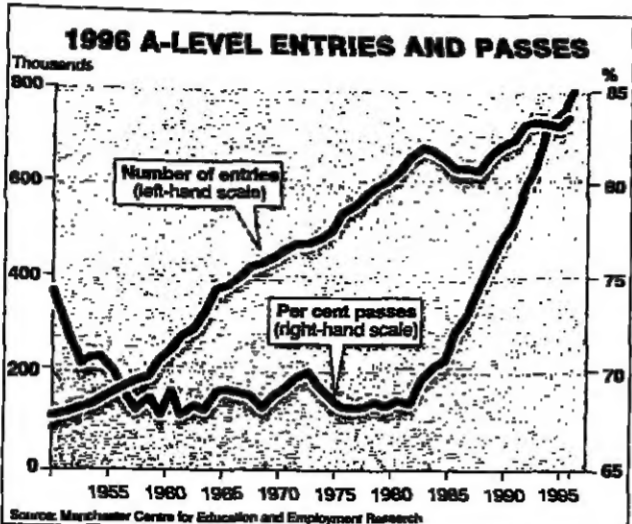
The increase of 1.2 per cent in the total number of A-level entries was lower than the rise in the 18-year-old population. More students are opting for vocational qualifications, whose results are not published until the end of the month.

A rise of 1.8 percentage points in the proportion of passes at E grade and above shows a return to the grade inflation of the early years of the decade. The increase was sharper still in the A-C grades, which are generally considered the passport to popular degree courses.

The rate of increase in the top grade slowed, however, with last year's 15.6 per cent rising to 16 per cent this



Posted: the delivery of exam results may have been held up by yesterday's postal workers' strike



Source: Manpower Centre for Education and Employment Research

summer. This trend, at least, should bring some relief to university admissions tutors trying to ration places on courses with high entry requirements.

Some subjects, such as biology, computing, physics and modern languages, saw the proportion of A grades fall. But there were significant rises at the top level in religious studies, classics and art and design.

Pass rates in modular A

levels were, as predicted, much higher than on traditional courses in the same subjects. However, it proved more difficult for candidates to get an A grade in three of the four main subjects for modular entries this year.

Modular A levels are gradually being introduced for all subjects and allow the student to be examined on units of the course as they complete them. This year, the most modular papers were taken in mathe-

matics, by 59 per cent of candidates, followed by 58 per cent in chemistry, 50 per cent biology and 45 per cent physics.

Around 10 per cent of English A levels completed this summer were modular and next year's figures will include many more, including the first results from modular A levels in economics, geography, politics and modern foreign languages.

Mathematics was the only subject where students on the new-style courses scored more grade As and Bs than their counterparts taking the whole examination this summer. On modular courses, 26.6 per cent of students gained an A and 21.1 per cent a B, compared with 24.2 per cent and 16.7 per cent on traditional, linear, courses.

In biology, 12.4 per cent of students gained a modular A grade compared with 15 per cent on linear courses. The A-grade rate in chemistry was 18.7 per cent for modular and 20.8 per cent for linear and in physics 16.8 per cent modular and 23.7 per cent linear. Examination boards said the overall pass rates reflected both greater motivation on behalf of those taking modular courses, as well as their tendency not to register for final examinations if units already taken suggested that they would fail. As a result, candidates tended to cluster in the middle grades.

In mathematics, a 90.2 per cent pass rate was recorded on modular courses compared with 83.4 per cent otherwise. For biology, the modular pass rate was 38.9 per cent compared with 79.7 per cent; in chemistry 87.2 per cent compared with 83.9 per cent; and in physics 89.3 per cent compared with 82.3 per cent.

### CUMULATIVE 1996 A-LEVEL RESULTS BY GRADE (1995 percentages)

Subject	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	No sat	% of total no sat
Art & Design subjects	19.4	39.4	53.4	82.2	93.7	98.5	100.0	33,782	4.6
Biology	18.3	38.2	61.4	80.9	93.0	98.4	100.0	33,907	4.7
Business Studies	14.5	32.5	51.7	69.6	84.4	93.7	100.0	51,894	7.0
Chemistry	14.3	30.0	47.0	64.0	79.2	90.1	100.0	51,846	7.1
Classical subjects	7.7	23.1	44.5	65.6	82.2	91.3	100.0	29,100	3.9
Communication Studies	7.1	22.3	42.8	64.6	81.3	90.7	100.0	28,837	3.7
Computing	19.8	40.7	59.1	74.1	86.1	94.1	100.0	40,455	5.5
Economics	19.3	37.0	53.8	89.4	92.4	91.7	100.0	42,280	5.6
English	24.9	48.5	68.6	82.5	92.1	96.1	100.0	7,346	1.0
Expressive Arts	23.8	46.4	67.6	82.9	91.5	96.2	100.0	7,773	1.1
French	11.5	27.7	44.7	61.7	77.7	88.1	100.0	5,077	0.7
General Studies	11.7	29.7	47.3	65.3	80.1	89.8	100.0	5,072	0.7
Geography	10.5	23.4	41.5	60.9	77.8	89.0	100.0	10,897	1.4
German	10.8	23.4	41.0	60.2	78.1	90.1	100.0	10,185	1.4
History	15.0	31.1	49.2	68.9	81.7	91.1	100.0	24,580	3.3
Home Economics	14.4	30.0	46.7	63.5	78.5	89.9	100.0	26,587	3.7
Law	14.5	32.5	51.7	69.6	84.4	93.7	100.0	86,627	12.0
Mathematics	14.0	32.9	54.8	75.9	90.0	96.5	100.0	86,399	11.8
Media/Film/TV Studies	10.1	26.9	49.8	70.4	86.0	94.5	100.0	9,815	1.3
Music	11.7	28.1	47.5	67.4	83.5	92.6	100.0	8,984	1.2
Other Modern Languages	20.9	38.9	59.2	76.5	89.0	95.9	100.0	27,490	3.7
Physics	20.1	38.4	57.7	75.4	88.8	95.9	100.0	27,497	3.8
Political Studies	13.3	30.5	48.0	67.8	82.4	91.5	100.0	63,454	8.6
Psychology	13.3	30.5	48.0	67.8	82.4	91.5	100.0	57,458	7.9
Religious Studies	13.3	30.5	48.0	67.8	82.4	91.5	100.0	42,878	5.8
Sociology	23.6	41.9	60.8	77.6	88.8	96.3	100.0	43,436	6.0
Spanish	22.4	41.0	60.2	78.9	89.1	96.1	100.0	10,719	1.5
Sport/PE Studies	14.5	31.9	50.5	69.6	83.4	92.0	100.0	10,824	1.5
Technology subjects	14.1	31.9	50.5	69.6	83.4	92.0	100.0	43,355	5.9
Wales	10.8	23.4	41.0	60.2	78.1	90.1	100.0	43,479	6.0
Welsh	9.8	24.3	46.5	68.8	85.1	93.2	100.0	2,588	0.4
All other subjects	10.8	23.4	41.0	60.2	78.1	90.1	100.0	11,982	1.6
Total	9.8	24.3	46.5	68.8	85.1	93.2	100.0	12,092	1.7
Art & Design subjects	26.7	46.0	63.0	77.1	88.0	94.4	100.0	67,442	9.1
Biology	28.4	44.6	61.2	75.3	88.0	93.4	100.0	62,195	8.6
Business Studies	10.1	26.9	49.8	70.4	86.0	94.5	100.0	8,883	1.2
Chemistry	10.1	26.9	49.8	70.4	86.0	94.5	100.0	7,056	1.0
Classical subjects	19.3	39.7	63.0	82.0	93.5	98.4	100.0	6,006	0.8
Communication Studies	19.1	39.0	62.6	81.4	93.0	97.9	100.0	6,006	0.8
Computing	29.9	51.5	70.5	82.9	91.3	95.7	100.0	5,431	0.7
Economics	20.6	39.7	57.6	73.1	85.9	94.2	100.0	32,801	4.4
English	21.3	37.9	54.8	70.8	84.3	93.3	100.0	34,767	4.8
Expressive Arts	14.6	35.9	57.3	75.9	88.3	93.9	100.0	11,292	1.5
French	13.0	32.9	54.0	73.1	88.1	92.9	100.0	11,858	1.6
General Studies	10.8	23.4	41.0	60.2	78.1	90.1	100.0	23,877	3.2
Geography	10.8	23.4	41.0	60.2	78.1	90.1	100.0	22,111	3.0
German	14.3	34.1	57.7	77.5	89.7	95.7	100.0	9,053	1.2
History	13.1	31.3	54.0	74.1	87.9	94.9	100.0	8,924	1.2
Home Economics	11.0	26.4	47.2	68.5	84.9	93.9	100.0	5,141	0.7
Law	10.9	25.1	43.9	64.0	81.5	91.1	100.0	5,707	0.8
Media/Film/TV Studies	10.5	26.9	49.8	70.4	86.0	94.5	100.0	29,871	4.0
Music	8.7	24.9	46.5	68.8	85.1	93.2	100.0	30,580	4.2
Other Modern Languages	23.6	45.6	64.6	79.8	90.2	95.6	100.0	5,232	0.7
Physics	22.4	43.2	63.0	78.7	89.8	96.5	100.0	4,822	0.7
Political Studies	8.7	20.1	42.7	68.6	86.6	96.6	100.0	9,732	1.3
Psychology	6.8	19.7	43.6	61.4	80.6	93.1	100.0	7,686	1.1
Religious Studies	12.4	26.9	50.6	73.5	88.3	96.2	100.0	11,081	1.5
Sociology	17.1	41.2	67.7	85.9	98.2	99.2	100.0	10,747	1.5
Spanish	14.3	39.5	64.9	86.3	96.7	99.1	100.0	892	0.1
Sport/PE Studies	12.8	30.2	45.8	62.0	75.7	85.0	100.0	9,834	1.3
Technology subjects	12.1	28.9	44.6	60.1	73.7	83.1	100.0	10,459	1.4
Wales	16.0	34.0	53.8	72.1	85.8	93.6	100.0	739,163	100.0
Welsh	15.6	32.7	51.7	69.9	84.0	92.5	100.0	725,992	100.0

All science subjects except Biology, Chemistry and Physics. \*Modern Languages except French, German, Spanish and candidates gaining grade, 1995 brackets

## Mergers of boards increase rivalry

By JOHN O'LEARY

THE number of examination boards has fallen dramatically in the past two decades, but competition between those remaining is more intense than ever.

Schools and colleges are switching between boards at an unprecedented rate to give students the best chance of high grades. But teachers insist their choices are motivated more by the style and content of courses than perceived variations in standards.

The 24 boards of 20 years ago had dropped to eight by the time the GCSE was introduced in 1986. The latest merger, between the Oxford and Cambridge boards, has reduced the total to four in England, with one each for Wales and Northern Ireland.

But this has coincided with greater competition, with the boards operating as businesses. The rivalry has satisfied Conservative requirements for greater choice, but even some examiners wonder if competition is compatible with the maintenance of standards.

Greater regulation has been introduced as the inexorable rise in pass rates has raised doubts about the consistency of examining. John Patten, as Education Secretary, brought in a code of practice to tighten procedures and give the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority a monitoring role.

With official reports continuing to find no fault with the current system, however, there has been no intervention on the scale seen in GCSE courses. Ministers are considering parallel powers for the authority to reduce the number of syllabuses as well as to stem the increase in subjects.

## A test of my nerves and finances as much as my offspring's wisdom

HERE we go again. This time, however, I am an older and wiser father. Last year my son, Linus, faced up to his A levels. Panic.

Regarded by his teachers as a bright boy, he gave early announcement that the overdraft we had spent on his education had been wasted. Exams were not his thing, he said. After each paper he reeled off, with ill-concealed satisfaction, the elementary errors and, worse, the inflammatory value judgements recorded under his name.

The errors I could forgive but the deliberate flouting of establishment views — well, it wasn't the same in my day. How could he do it? I asked myself. How could he do it? I asked him.

"It's like this," said the idle six-footer, placing a heavy hand on my shoulder. "Exams are a small part of life. What do they prove, after all? Those who score high marks have good memories for recalled opinions. They are the Daleks of

If at first they don't succeed ... Barry Turner, a veteran of examination angst, offers advice for parents who have been dreading today as much as their children

our society. What we need is men, and women," he added hurriedly, "of spirit and imagination who are prepared to break the mould."

It happened that I had work that took me to a remote farmhouse in Gascony with a capacious wine cellar. It is a form of escape that I recommend to any parent suffering from A-levelitis. Gradually the dark mood lifts. Sedated by gallons of rough red, one grows accustomed to the notion that life's many problems, A levels are but a passing irritant.

I expressed this view when Linus called to tell me how much he was enjoying what he described as his year out before going to university. "Hang

on," I said. "You aren't going to university. Remember? Those A levels? Failures, every one, according to you."

"I wouldn't worry about it, pops," (I wish he wouldn't call me that). "I'll scrape together a few passes to see me through."

Came the day. Dulwich College follows the sadistic tradition of posting A-level results on the noticeboard, a practice reminiscent of the medieval habit of displaying severed heads on pikes at the city gate. Linus, I assumed, would be at the front of the crowd, eager to put himself and his parents out of agony. When I rang he was nowhere to be found. His sister, Sally, who inhabits another world akin to but not actually

joined to this one, thought he might have gone somewhere with a girlfriend.

"But what about his A levels?" I wailed. "What A levels?" she asked sweetly. I rang the school: yes, the A levels were up on the board but, no, they were not at liberty to tell me what, if anything, Linus had gained because they could not be sure of my identity. "But I am his father; you know, the one who pays the fees."

That evening Linus rang to say that he had three grade As and a B. He sounded dejected. When I asked to know what was wrong, he confessed that he had expected straight As. "Why on earth didn't you tell me that before?"

"I didn't want to build up your hopes." Now it is Sally's turn. She goes, or rather went, to Alwyn's, the sister school to Dulwich College, where she was blessed with a form teacher of such patience, sympathy and fortitude that his name deserves to be recorded for posterity. Stand up, please, Mr Kingman.

and take your bow, Sally, as I intimated earlier, is inclined to drift off at critical moments. In consequence, she is brilliant at starting examinations but none too good at finishing them. Her results will depend on marks scored for flashes of inspiration.

I remain calm. No longer the nervous supplicant at the A-level tables, I follow Kipling to meet my children's triumphs and disasters. "And treat those two imposters just the same".

I begin to think that Linus was right first time. Exams are not that important. There are occupations that are free of academic encumbrance. Scouring the prospectuses for opportunities for career women, I find that a pig enterprise management course at the Scottish Agricultural College has a requirement of just one E grade at A level. And it does not even specify a subject.

Excuse me, I must have a chat with my daughter.



Hard-learned lessons: Barry Turner with his children Linus and Sally

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## A-level dropouts find AS is not an easy option

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A LARGE rise in the take-up of AS levels, which cover half the material of an A level, was this year accompanied by a sharp drop in the pass rate. Examination boards said more students were turning to the course expecting it to be an easier option than a full A level, but were finding the standards expected were just as high.

The number of AS levels taken was swollen by students who began modular A levels, where units of the course are examined once they are completed, but decided to switch because early units put them off the full A level.

The School Curriculum and Assessment Authority said yesterday it would be consulting from September on re-vamping the AS level, which is at present a two-year course, to make it easier.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the authority, who last year chaired a major review of exam qualifications for the Government, suggested students should be able to take



Dearing: proposed one-year AS levels

AS levels in a year, and that the standard should match the work expected in the first year of A-level study.

There was an 11 per cent rise in AS-level entries this summer but a fall in passes on the 58,297 papers by 2.4 per cent.

Kathleen Tattersall, chief executive of the Northern Examinations and Assessment

Board and chairman of the Joint Forum for the GCE and GCSE, said: "Sir Ron Dearing proposed an AS-level standard lower than A level and like the first year of A level, taken in one year so it could be the stepping stone to a full A level. This year's figures point to the need for that intermediate examination because of the difficulty of students achieving at the same standard as A level."

This year's extra entries came mostly in subjects available as modular A levels. There were 46.3 per cent more mathematics papers taken, chemistry was up 33.7 per cent, physics 27.1 per cent and biology 21.1 per cent.

Mrs Tattersall added: "This is the first rise in AS levels for a number of years. In those A-level subjects where there is a modular option, candidates have decided to try for AS level but it may very well be they have a mistaken view that they are going to find the AS level easier, because it is at the full A-level standard."

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The splendours of Fishbourne Palace are evidence of how quickly the British adopted Roman culture

## Sumptuous reward for a co-operative chieftain

By Emma Wilkins

FOR King Cogidubnus, chief of the local British tribe, it was home. For anyone else, the Roman palace at Fishbourne was a feat of engineering and craftsmanship that displayed beyond doubt the superiority of a conquering race.

The palace, built some time around AD 75 just a few miles to the west of Chichester, boasted more than 100 rooms, including a bath-house, audience chamber and pleasure gardens. This landscaped estate occupied a site of some ten acres, running down to a private harbour with sea views.

The palace itself, at 250,000 sq ft, was on a scale matched only by Nero's Gold-

en Palace in Rome and would have cost about £8 million in today's money. While there is much debate over its history, the most likely occupant was Cogidubnus, chief of the Atrebatas tribe.

The tribe's previous chief, Verica, had fled to Rome seeking the help of the Emperor Claudius against hostile British neighbours. Once the threat to territory in Sussex and Hampshire was removed, the Atrebatas remained friendly with the Empire.

After the invasion of the Roman army in AD 43, Cogidubnus was made one of Rome's client kings and was allowed to keep his territory



in return for peaceful co-operation with the imperial forces.

David Rudkin, director of Fishbourne Palace, said: "The magnitude of this palace is a huge indication of Roman power. Anyone who came here would be in no doubt about the influence of the Empire." It reveals many

secrets about the relationship between conquerors and conquered, many of whom quickly and willingly adopted the Romans' superior culture.

When building began, local craftsmen were not sophisticated enough to produce high-quality work, so interior decorators were brought in from Gaul. The mosaics they produced can be seen in the original settings, buckled by hand movement but recognisable as patterns, in a covered building over the northwest wing.

Visitors can see the best example of a first-century Roman garden in Britain, with a formal arrangement of box hedges laid out within the villa's walls.

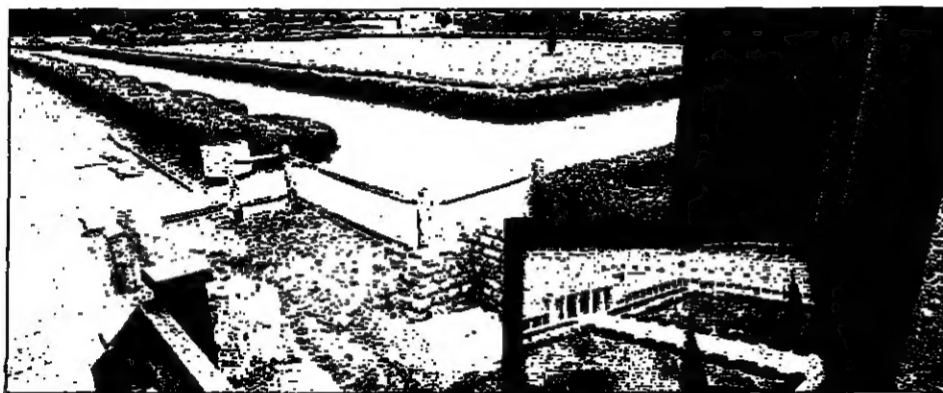
One clue to the history of the garden came from a plant pot, which was found to have four holes around the top, near the rim. According to an account by Pliny, these pots were designed to give plants air during transportation.

"It's likely that the plants here were brought all the way across the empire from Italy and France," Mr Rudkin said. "It's a lavish way to stock the garden and a good indication of the sophistication of the society."

Outside the villa, archaeologists believe they may now have found a water garden with fountains, waterfalls and



Bignor contains the best surviving mosaics in Britain, discovered in 1811 by a farmer ploughing his fields



A recreation of the first-century garden at Fishbourne, with box hedge borders

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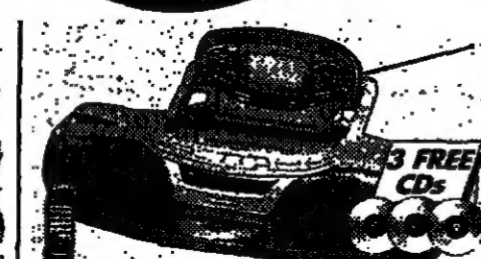
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later when the palace was looted and burnt to the ground, probably by pirates marauding along the South Coast.

By that time, British craftsmen had learnt to copy the Roman style. The villa at Bignor, on the South Downs outside Chichester, had begun as a modest first-century farm, but was substantially redecorated in sumptuous style 200 years later. It boasts the finest surviving mosaics in Britain, including an 82ft-long, beautifully preserved corridor which runs the length of the garden wall.

Historians believe that the owner was a Romano-British merchant who made his fortune from the wool trade and moved from Chichester to the countryside. However, others believe that the erotic mosaic of Ganymede and the eagle, which is almost perfectly preserved in the summer dining room, is an indication that the villa was once an upmarket brothel.

According to Greek myth, the gorgeous youth Ganymede was raped by Zeus who came to him in the shape of an eagle. The Roman version of the story is less racy: Ganymede, a shepherd, was lured by an eagle to become a cupbearer to the gods.

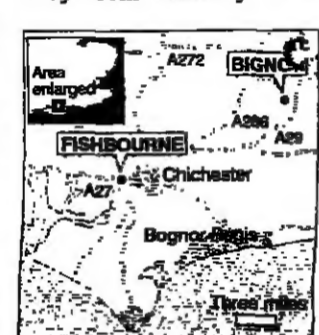
The central panel of the mosaic is surrounded by scantily clad maidens, skipping about a circle and waving their veils, which lends some credence to the theory. Jerry Compton, the custodian of the villa, demurs: "I don't favour the brothel idea, but the villa may have been used as a hunting lodge at one time. We know that a lot of

prosperous people moved out of Chichester to live in the country at the appropriate time. It's more likely to have been the home of a rich merchant."

The excavations at Bignor began in 1811 when a farmer, George Tupper, struck a large stone while ploughing one of his fields. A leading antiquary from London was soon on the scene, directing the digging.

The thatched building, which was constructed in 1813 to cover the mosaics, is so fine that it is listed as a National Heritage scheduled monument. The site is still owned by the Tupper family, who rely solely on entrance fees for the upkeep of the villa.

□ Fishbourne Palace is open daily from February 12 to



December 13 (Sundays only from January 7 to February 11 and December 15-29). Opening hours are 10am to 5pm, 6pm in August. Inquiries: 01243 785859.

Bignor is open from March to May, 10am to 5pm (closed Mondays except Bank Holidays) and June to September, 10am to 6pm daily. In October it is open from 10am to 5pm but closed on Mondays. Inquiries: 01798 869259.

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# Tax-change fanatics pledge to cut 12 hours of form-filling to five minutes

By TIM HAMES

LIFE for defeated presidential candidates at the party convention is not normally enjoyable. Obligated for the sake of form to show up, they are either anonymous figures or sulk on the edge of events, as Pat Buchanan has done.

In years past they were rewarded with a speaking slot, occasionally in prime time. Not so in San Diego. The best they get is a small appearance on a party video heavily scripted by the Dole campaign handlers. All but one of the ten men who opposed the eventual victor are having little impact.

## COMMENTARY

The exception is Steve Forbes and supporters of the flat tax. So great is his presence you could be forgiven for thinking he had won the presidential nomination. Bob Dole is now committed to a package of tax cuts as the first stage towards a "flatter, fairer, simpler" system. Jack Kemp, guru of supply-side economics and the only serious politician to endorse Mr Forbes, is the highly popular running-mate.

Mr Forbes is scheduled to attend dozens of events and has had scores of interviews. The \$37 million (£23

million) he personally spent during the campaign now looks a better investment than it did six months ago. He is supplemented by a torrent of activity from Citizens for a Sound Economy, the 250,000-member group most associated with his cause. Its predominantly young supporters are everywhere in San Diego, festooned with balloons, stickers and T-shirts exclaiming "Annoy the IRS" (the Internal Revenue Service) and "Support the Flat Tax" and distributing oversized badges with the same message to eager delegates.

Their party at the Planet Hollywood restaurant today hosted by

Mr Forbes and Dick Army, second in command to Newt Gingrich in the House of Representatives, is the glamour outing of the week. They have swamped the CNN television station with commercials arguing that their proposals would put Washington's detested lobbyists out of business. These flat-tax fanatics believe that they represent the Republican future.

They may be right. Their position is the logical extension of the party's hostility to tax and regulation. Its strength is the almost universal loathing felt for the present US tax system. This produces some 480 tax forms. The

standard document used by most citizens requires an average of 12 hours' work to fill in. It is estimated that the eight billion pieces of paper produced by the IRS need nearly six billion man-hours to complete at an estimated cost of \$200 billion.

The alternative backed by Mr Forbes, Mr Army and Richard Shelby, an Alabama senator, would be radically different. All Americans would receive generous personal allowances — \$11,350 for single people and \$22,700 for married couples — plus a further \$5,300 per child. In return, there would be no deductions or loopholes. All income above these

figures would be taxed at a single 17 per cent rate. A family with two children earning up to \$33,300 would pay zero federal income tax. At \$50,000, they would owe only \$2,830. Its backers believe this generous treatment of lower income would offset the charge that comes from the rich. The one band favours the reduced income tax form could be dealt with in under five minutes. Money from savings or investments would be taxed only once.

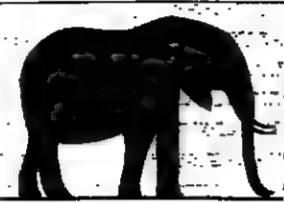
For the flat tax to prosper swiftly requires three factors. First, a Republican President. Second, that the imprecise promise Mr Dole has

made to move towards it is turned into something more specific. Enthusiasts believe that Mr Kemp, if Vice-President, would ensure that the 2000 election was fought on implementing that package.

Finally, an element of compromise. Although Americans are attracted to the concept, they would not want to lose two very popular allowances, those for mortgage interest payment and charitable contributions. This would slightly upset the purity of the programme, but politics dictates adjustments. However, win or lose in 1996, Republican interest in the ultimate tax reform is likely to endure.

## Dole aides plot ways to exploit the Powell factor

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN SAN DIEGO



REPUBLICAN CONVENTION '96

AS THE Republican Party convention prepared formally to anoint Bob Dole as its presidential nominee last night, his aides were plotting ways to boost his electoral appeal by exploiting Colin Powell.

One idea was to unveil key members of a Dole Cabinet prior to November's election, if the hugely popular retired black general could be persuaded to accept the job of Secretary of State. Another reported possibility was to ask Jeane Kirkpatrick, President Reagan's UN Ambassador, to be Secretary of Defence to improve Mr Dole's lowly standing among women.

General Powell is America's most popular public figure, and he brought the convention to its feet with an electric speech on Monday night, but how far he is prepared to go to help Mr Dole is not clear. He turned down the job of Secretary of State when President Clinton offered it to him in 1994. He joined the Republican Party in 1995, but refused to be Mr Dole's running-mate and said before the convention that he did not plan to campaign actively for the Republican ticket this autumn. He was known to be unhappy about Mr Dole's opposition to affirmative action programmes designed to counter racial discrimination.

General Powell was said to be genuinely excited by Mr Dole's selection of his friend, Jack Kemp, as running-mate last Saturday because Mr

Kemp has a long record of concern for America's racial and inner-city problems. But in an interview with yesterday's *Los Angeles Times*, Mr Kemp conspicuously softened his earlier support for affirmative-action programmes, lest he appear out of step with Mr Dole.

Mr Dole's formal nomination last night marked a new milestone in a political career spanning nearly half a century that has included two earlier bids for his party's nomination and an equally unsuccessful White House bid as President Ford's 1976 running-mate.

Cribbing from the Democrats, who produced a video called *The Man From Hope* that transformed Bill Clinton's image during the party's 1992 convention, convention organisers have prepared a powerful film biography of Mr Dole. Elizabeth Dole was expected to break all precedents by wandering among the delegates on the floor with a microphone in her hand and talking about her husband. Mr Dole's daughter, Robin,

was introducing him from the podium.

Mr Dole will formally accept the nomination tonight with the most important speech of his life, and from that moment he becomes eligible for nearly \$70 million (£45 million) in federal funds. His campaign has been virtually penniless since March, while Mr Clinton has been able to spend nearly \$30 million on commercials.

Tuesday night's session was devoted to pillorying Mr Clinton for "broken promises" on taxes, welfare and the budget. "Bill Clinton's promises have the lifespan of a Big Mac on Air Force One," quipped Susan Molinari, the young New York congresswoman who was the keynote speaker.

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, made a brief appearance in which he argued that "our philosophy represents the most compassionate, charitable and hopeful vision for America today." But the most powerful defence of a Republican agenda widely perceived as harsh came from J.C. Watts, a former professional football player from Oklahoma and one of the party's two black congressmen.

Unlike the Democrats, Republicans "don't define compassion by how many people are on welfare or living in public housing," he declared. "We define compassion by how few people are on welfare and public housing because we have given them the means to climb the ladder of success."



Diana Acompo, a Californian delegate at the convention, with a Bob Dole puppet

## General sees economic power as key to American dominance

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IT WAS almost midnight on a Saturday evening in December 1994 when General Colin Powell received a telephone call from President Clinton asking the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to drop into the White House for a chat. The following day Mr

Clinton offered the general, the Gulf War military leader, and perhaps the hottest political property in America, the role of Secretary of State to replace Warren Christopher.

Mr Powell told the President that, for personal reasons, he wanted no further involvement in public office. "Left unspoken were my reservations about the amorphous

way the Administration handled foreign policy, a style with which I was already familiar," Mr Powell wrote in his autobiography, *My American Journey*. "I did not see how I could fit back into this operation without changes so radical that the President would probably have difficulty making them."

Now, it seems, the retired

general is once more being considered for the premier foreign policy post in an American government led by Bob Dole.

In the early years of the Clinton presidency, Mr Powell ploughed a furrow of caution at the Pentagon. Even friends viewed the Powell doctrine as too cautious on the use of force.

Despite his obvious commitment to the Pentagon over 35 years, Mr Powell has always seen himself as being more suited to the role of Secretary of State.

He firmly believes that the United States is the leader of the Western world and the foundation upon which nascent democracies in Eastern Europe wish their security to

rest. But he still views economic dominance as the most successful lever for peace. "In this new world, economic strength will be more important than military strength," he writes. "The new order will be defined by trade relations, by the flow of information, capital, technology, and goods, rather than by armies glaring at each other."

## Fuel tank blast ruled out in TWA crash

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FOUR weeks after the crash of TWA flight 800, investigators believe they are near confirming sabotage as the cause of the disaster.

Examination of the jumbo jet's central fuel tank, which caught fire in the incident, has suggested that it did not explode until 24 seconds after an initial blast on board the Paris-bound Boeing 747,

which crashed on July 17 with the loss of all 230 passengers and crew.

The new evidence backed a theory, likely to be confirmed shortly by officials, that some sort of bomb exploded in the cabin of the airliner, causing it to break up. The explosion in the central fuel tank, situated in the belly of the jumbo, probably happened when the aircraft was already in a steep dive towards the 120ft-deep waters of Moriches Bay.

Investigators said that the condition of the fuel tank, although burnt by an explosion, proved that this was the result of "a low-energy fuel explosion" rather than the more violent sort of blast associated with explosives.

The latter would have twisted the metal more dramatically. It is thought that the first explosion, from a device that was possibly hidden in a serving galley or in a carry-on suitcase placed in an overhead

compartment, happened near the front of the right wing. The location is unimportant, however. The bomb would have crippled the aircraft wherever it was placed.

Once the disaster has been officially recognised as an act of sabotage, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has already been involved in the hunt for clues, will take over the case and mount a full investigation into the fate of Flight 800.

## Nervous party managers keep Newt in his box

### SAN DIEGO NOTEBOOK

What do you do with your party's most popular man if he also happens to be the most unpopular politician in the country? That was the conundrum facing the Republican convention's omnipotent scriptwriters, and their answer was simply to edit out Newt Gingrich.

The Speaker is nominally the convention chairman, but before last night he had made only one brief stage appearance that was timed to ensure minimum television coverage. The tiger assumed the role of pussycat in a seven-minute speech he spoke of charity and compassion, lauded Martin Luther King and levelled not a single unkind remark at President Clinton. There was no talk of revolution or shutting down government. In fact he failed to mention the first Republican Congress in 40 years. At the end his wife joined him on stage for a cuddle.

Mr Gingrich has also used his appearances outside the convention centre to suggest he is really a softie. He has posed for pictures at San Diego's zoo, with the dolphins at Sea World, and building homes for the poor. His real work, of course, takes place off-camera. He remains the party's most formidable fund-raiser and by the end of the week will have attended 73 events in 28 venues.

Democrats are not letting their case go by default this week. About 18 party officials have set up a temporary headquarters a few blocks from the convention centre from which they distribute instant rebuttals to the latest Republican charges. They also hold daily press conferences, or "reality checks".

The officials include Chris Dodd, the Democratic Party chairman, George Stephanopoulos, one of the President's top advisers, and James Carville, Mr Clinton's 1992 campaign strategist. To the fury of Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman, the three of them are enjoying free access to the convention, courtesy of the television networks, which bring them in for interviews.

Mr Clinton is also roaming freely around the convention. Well, not the President himself, but a remarkably convincing look-alike named Tim Watters. His favourite trick is to waylay the prettiest girls and loudly invite them up to his hospitality suite.

The whole point of this convention is to propel Bob Dole to victory this November, but

some senior Republicans evidently believe that cause is hopeless. Instead, they are using the occasion to lobby for the party's next presidential nomination. Most are more subtle than Pat Buchanan, who has almost openly declared his intention to run again in 2000. Their preferred modus operandi is to cosset the delegations from Iowa and New Hampshire, the sites of the first caucus and primary.

Steve Forbes, the multimillionaire publisher, greeted the Iowaans even before Monday's opening gavel. On Tuesday another of this year's losers, Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee Governor, held a party for the delegates from New Hampshire on board a chartered yacht in San Diego Bay and urged them to "stay in touch and keep your powder dry".

Dan Quayle, the former Vice-President, is said to be actively wooing the delegates, but the latest name in the frame is that of George Bush Jr, the son of the former President and high-profile Texas Governor.

Mr Dole has suddenly developed a family. Not only is his wife, Elizabeth, rushing around promoting him, so is his 41-year-old daughter by his first marriage who had previously stayed well out of the limelight.

Robin Dole, who lost her job as a lobbyist for a property company last year, is suddenly ubiquitous — appearing on chat shows, greeting the party faithful at receptions and last night introducing her father with a prime-time speech to the convention. The purpose, of course, is to humanise the dour Mr Dole and boost his scant appeal to women voters.

Mr Dole is fortunate to have such a loyal and supportive daughter. Richard Ben Cramer, his biographer, tells a story to illustrate just how little attention Mr Dole paid her when she was growing up. Aged 11, she wanted her ears pierced. Her father was so obsessed with building his political career that she hardly ever saw him. The only way she could ask his permission was to leave a "speed memo" on his bed with two boxes marked "yes" and "no". He replied with a third box marked "maybe" and "I'll talk to you on Tuesday". That was four days away — an eternity for a young girl in a hurry.

MARTIN FLETCHER

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TODAY



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY AUGUST 15 1996

RK

# Jobless total at five-year low

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNEMPLOYMENT fell to its lowest for five years last month, with the underlying trend continuing downwards, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The number of seasonally adjusted unemployment claimants fell by 24,100 to 2,126,200 in July — 7.6 per cent of the workforce.

The Government seized on the figures, which represent the fifth consecutive monthly fall, as evidence of a strengthening job market. Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, pointed to a new ONS estimate that the downward trend in unemployment has accelerated to about 15,000 a month.

The size of the fall surprised the City, prompting some fears that a tightening in the labour market could reignite inflation as wages begin to rise.

But Jonathan Loyne, UK economist at HSBC markets, said: "The figures were stronger than expected and provide some tentative evidence the labour market is tightening gently, but there is no need to fear a surge in wage pressures."

The number of long-term unemployed also continued to

fall. Unemployment among those out of work for longer than a year fell 27,300 in the quarter to July to 779,000, while those without a job for more than six months fell 54,400 to 1,197,400 over the same period.

The number of new vacancies notified to jobcentres increased by 5,300 between June and July to 223,400, while the stock of vacancies rose sharply by 11,500 to 230,300. But the ONS cautioned against placing too much emphasis on the increase in available jobs, saying that the rise was exaggerated by the introduction of a new computer system at jobcentres.

The TUC welcomed the fall in claimant unemployment but John Monks, TUC General Secretary, added that there

## Strike days on increase

THE number of working days lost through strikes jumped to a six-year high in June (Alasdair Murray writes). A total of 228,000 were lost (7,000 in May) involving 133,000 workers (4,000 in May). The figures will rise in July, with the inclusion of the London Underground strikes. Disputes by Royal Mail, Benefits Agency and Derbyshire firemen continue, while action is due at several train operating companies.

generated by the introduction of a new computer system at jobcentres.

The TUC welcomed the fall in claimant unemployment but John Monks, TUC General Secretary, added that there

was still no sign that the economy was generating new jobs.

Labour pointed to separate figures published by the household-based Labour Force survey, which showed a

30 per cent rise in youth unemployment during the past three years. Stephen Byers, Shadow Employment Minister, said the number of 16- and 17-year-olds out of work totalled 142,000 in the spring compared with 110,000 in the spring of 1993.

Unemployment fell across the regions, with the largest drops in the South East, Greater London, West Midlands and North West. There were also falls in male and female unemployment, with the number of jobless men declining 17,800 to 1,613,600, while women's unemployment fell 6,300 to 512,600.

There was more evidence of the weakness of the manufacturing sector. Figures for June showed a 51,600 year-on-year fall in employment in the manufacturing industries, although there was a small monthly rise from May.

Unadjusted unemployment increased by 61,747 to 2,158,073 between June and July, traditionally a volatile month because of the arrival of university graduates in the workforce. The ONS said that it believed the adjusted figures may have slightly overstated the fall in July.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, added that there was some evidence that unemployment figures were being generally depressed by the rising numbers of people at universities or on other benefits.

Unemployment among men of 18 to 25 and over 50 stands well below its ten-year average, but unemployment for men aged 25 to 49 has only just decreased to its ten-year average. Unemployment for the 25-49 age group also remains 50 per cent above its July 1990 level, whereas the overall jobless total is only 30 per cent higher.

Pennington, page 25

# Clash on interest rates set to continue

By JANET BUSH AND ALASDAIR MURRAY

A CLEAR policy divide opened up between the Treasury and the Bank of England early last month and is likely to be exacerbated by yesterday's news of an upward revision in average earnings growth.

The minutes of the monthly monetary meeting on July 3 published yesterday showed that Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, made it clear that he is in no rush to answer the Bank of England's call for a pre-emptive rise in interest rates.

Mr Clarke said: "If growth did accelerate to the point where the inflation target

was being put at risk, there would be sufficient time to act prudently."

This was in stark contrast to the view of Eddie George, the Bank Governor, that the quarter-point cut in rates in June "may have brought forward the time when interest rates will need to rise" and last week's Inflation Report which called for a rise in rates sooner rather than later.

Mr George's implacable opposition to further rate cuts and bias towards a rate rise is only likely to be strengthened by yesterday's news that average earnings growth, which surprisingly dipped back to 3.50 per cent in May, has now been revised

up again to 3.75 per cent. Earnings rose 3.75 per cent in the year to June.

The revision in the May figures, coupled with a continuing fall in unemployment, raised concern that wage inflation could accelerate later in the year, although most economists said yesterday that pay should remain under control.

Today retail price figures for July are published and the City expects inflation to nudge upwards because price-cutting in the summer sales has not been as fierce as last year. Headline inflation could rise from 2.1 to 2.3 per cent and underlying inflation from 2.8 to 3 per cent.

## SBC sets aside £70m for bonuses

By ROBERT MILLER

SWISS Bank Corporation (SBC), which now owns Warburg, the London broker, has set aside a SFr149 million (£70 million) bonus pot to reward its top executives and senior traders.

The performance-related bonuses were enhanced by sparkling performances from SBC Warburg and the Swiss bank's private banking arm. This helped to lift the group's gross operating profits 33 per cent to SFr2.1 billion in the first half.

The bank said the growth in personnel expenses "was due entirely to performance-related compensation" — another way of describing bonuses. Personnel expenses rose sharply to SFr2.1 billion in the six months to June 30, compared with SFr1.6 billion previously.

In spite of the Swiss bank's higher depreciation and provisioning charges, up 37 per cent to SFr681 million and 16 per cent to SFr383 million respectively, the group reported pre-tax profits of SFr996 million compared with SFr724 million in the same period last year.

Swiss Bank Corporation said that the integration of Warburg had been successfully completed. The company added: "The financial goals set at the time of acquisition have been exceeded to date. The new organisational structure announced in May 1996 built around the four divisions — domestic, SBC private banking, SBC Warburg and SBC Brinson — is proceeding according to plan and will be fully operational by the end of 1996."

Net commission income at SBC rose 58 per cent to SFr2.1 billion, while revenue from trading and risk management increased 27 per cent to SFr1.5 billion.

Of the outlook for the full year, SBC said: "The bank is relatively cautious in its outlook for the remainder of the year in view of the uncertainties on the financial markets and the difficult economic environment. Provisioning needs are consequently expected to remain high in the second half."

## BUSINESS TODAY

### STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3820.2	(+8.5)
Yield	4.09%	
FT-SE All share	1894.55	(+3.03)
Nickel	20081.11	(+116.16)
New York		
Dow Jones	8553.35	(+11.10)
S&P Composite	851.57	(+1.37)

### US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5%)
Long Bond	95%	(95%)
Yield	6.79%	(6.79%)

### LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	8.75%	(8.75%)
Life long gilt	107.75	(107.75)
Yen	187.15	(186.55)
£ index	54.8	(54.6)

### STERLING

New York	1.5488	(1.5488)
London	1.5488	(1.5488)
DM	2.3000	(2.2900)
FF	7.8611	(7.8478)
Sfr	1.2678	(1.2614)
Yen	187.15	(186.55)
£ index	54.8	(54.6)

### BOREAL

London	1.4870	(1.4785)
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Yen	187.15	(186.55)
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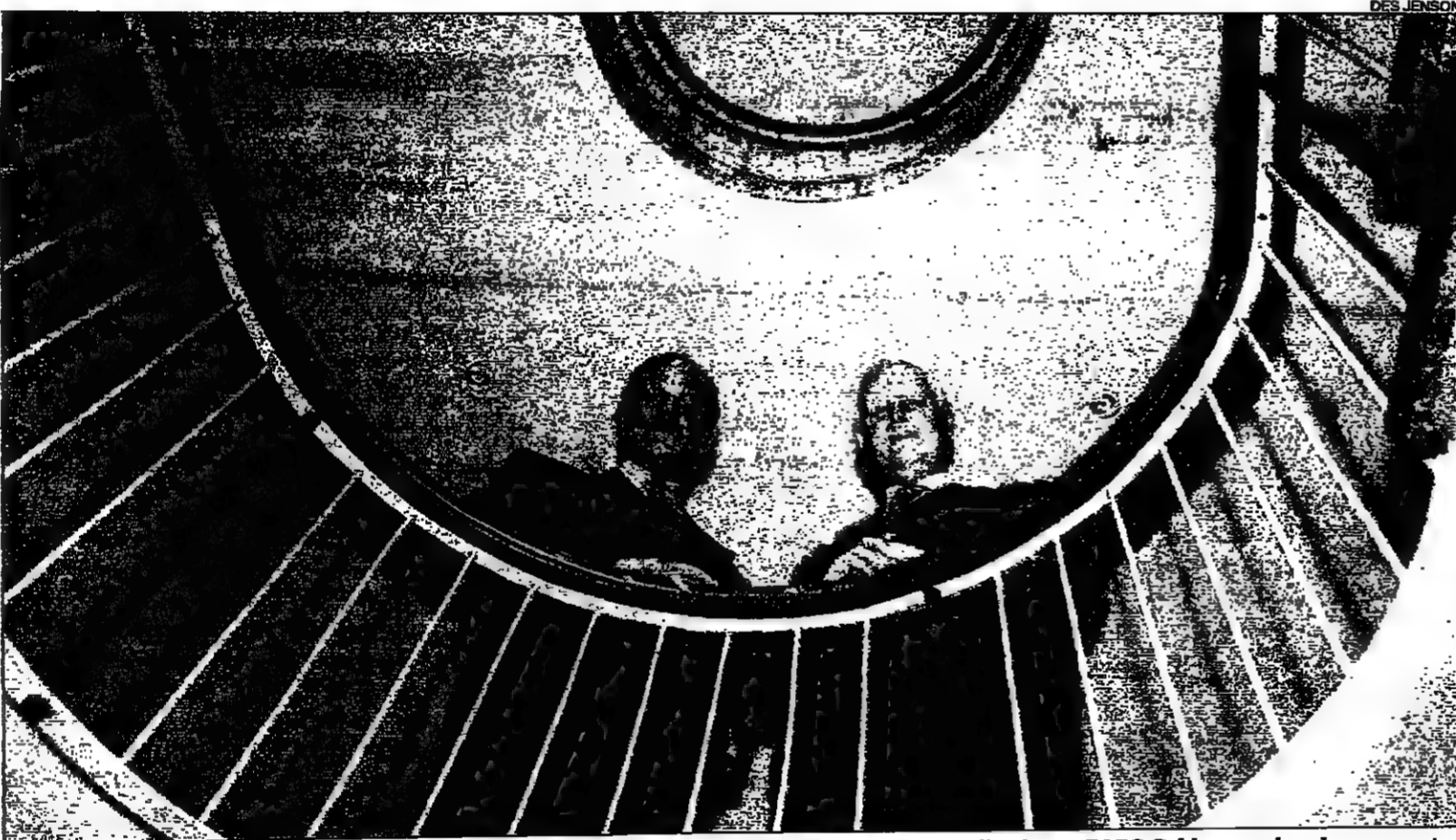
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Ron Henderson, left, finance director, and Alan Jones believe that the benefits of the rationalisation at BICC Cables are already apparent

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

## BICC takes £65m charge

A FRESH round of exceptional charges and a poor performance by its Balfour Beatty contracting business plunged BICC, the construction and cables group, into the red in the first half of this year.

BICC reported a £2 million pre-tax loss in the six months to June 29 compared with a £60 million profit in the same period last year. Before excep-

tional items, the group made a profit of £63 million.

The £65 million provisions included £25 million for rationalisation and asset write-downs at its German cables arm, KWO; £35 million for a write-down of the value of its Spitalfields site in London; and £5 million on property develop-

ments. In 1995, the company took exceptional charges of £176 million for restructuring and the loss suffered on its sale of Clarke Homes.

Balfour Beatty suffered in the first half from bad debts in North America and "disappointing contract settlements" in the civil engineering and

power engineering businesses. The recently acquired rail business are already performing well and helped to offset losses elsewhere.

Alan Jones, chief executive, said the benefits of its rationalisation programme at BICC Cables were already apparent and that investment

was being stepped up. Analysts moved their full-year forecasts down from about £142 million to £137 million, but shares nonetheless closed 5p higher at 320p.

The loss per share of 10.5p at half time compared with earnings of 6.5p in the first half of 1995. It is maintaining its interim dividend, which is payable on January 2, at 4p.

Temps, page 26

## Lloyd's rescue irrational and perverse, says QC

By JON ASHWORTH

LLOYD'S of London's £3.2 billion rescue plan is an unlawful scheme that "infringes fundamental principles" governing the insurance market, the High Court was told yesterday. The "irrational and perverse" package discriminated

# Campaign aims to calm fears over franc

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A CONCERTED verbal defence of the French franc appears to be under way, with senior officials of the Bundesbank holding out hope of a cut in German interest rates and the French Prime Minister denying any policy tensions between the Government and Bank of France.

The franc came under strong pressure last Friday on speculation that France was seeking a delay to the start of the single currency, that the Government wanted to push the central bank into sharper cuts in interest rates and that the Bundesbank was disinclined to bail out the franc by shaving German rates.

But this week has been characterised by reassuring noises from Frankfurt and Paris. Earlier this week, Hans Tietmeyer, President of the Bundesbank, said he was confident that monetary union would begin on time. The August monthly report from the Bundesbank left the door

open to a further fall in money market rates if the trend of money supply allowed.

Yesterday, Oskar Issing, the Bundesbank's chief economist, told the *International Herald Tribune* that he was doubtful whether the German economy could continue to recover and made it clear that the bank was not happy with the recent rise in the mark against the dollar and other currencies.

In relying on trends in money supply as a pointer to the right level of interest rates, Herr Issing, one of the most orthodox members of the Bundesbank's policy-making council, was also confident that growth in M3 money supply would slow further.

His remarks convinced the markets that the Bundesbank is preparing the ground for a cut in its key money market repurchase rate. The council returns from its four-week summer break next Thursday.

Alain Juppé, French Prime Minister, joined the effort to allay market nerves surrounding the franc, the mark and prospects for monetary union. He said yesterday that there were no policy differences between the Government and the Bank of France and that recent fluctuations in the franc were a storm in a teacup.

Investors sold the franc last Friday because of speculation that Jacques Chirac, the French President, wanted the Bank of France to cut interest rates more boldly to offset weakness in the economy, and soaring unemployment.

M Juppé said yesterday that the Government shared the central bank's objective of a stable currency and that its determination to break the vicious circle of the deficit was greater than ever. He said he was confident France would meet the Maastricht criteria for joining a single currency.

Economic View, page 27

## TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.08	1.98
Austria Sch	17.15	16.85
Belgium Fr	36.21	40.01
Canada \$	2.23	2.07
Cyprus Cyp	3.46	0.691
Denmark Kr	7.47	8.32
Finland Mk	0.25	0.25
France Fr	6.25	7.80
Germany Dr	2.45	2.24
Greece Dr	352	357
Hong Kong \$	12.62	11.82
Ireland P	1.13	1.13
Ireland P	1.01	0.89
Israel Sh	5.26	4.81
Italy Lit	2.67	2.62
Japan Yen	181.00	185.00
Malta	0.504	0.508
Netherlands Gld	2.726	2.406
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.19
Norway Kr	10.47	9.87
Portugal Esc	167.00	155.50
Spain Ptas	166.64	166.64
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.36
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	128770	124770
USA \$	1.87	1.87

Rules for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



Star signing: Dutch international Pierre van Hooijdonk cost Celtic £1.2 million

## Celtic loses off the pitch

By GEORGE SIVELL

CELTIC, the Glasgow football club listed on the Alternative Investment Market, increased losses after tax to £1.01 million from £401,000 in the year June in spite of a rise in turnover and a return to operating profits.

The club wrote off £3.8 million from its assets after a conservative review of the value of its team in the wake of the so-called Bosman ruling, which means that players are free to leave a football club once their contracts have finished.

Celtic has spent £12 million in the past two years on acquiring 10 new players.

Sales rose 54 per cent to £16 million, thanks to a return to Celtic Park, and profits from operations reached £2.7 million after a £180,000 loss in 1995. Celtic Park can now seat 47,600, and the club has sold about 40,000 season tickets for the coming season. Last season Celtic had 29,500 season ticket holders, up from the 18,500 registered in the previous year.

Celtic says that all its publishing, broadcasting, catering, branded merchandise and Pools operations had shown increases in sales.

The ordinary shares were unchanged yesterday at £275 against the issue price of £64 in September 1995. The club is worth £116 million on the stock market. Net assets at the end of June were £31.3 million against £29 million in 1995.

Holders of the preference shares, which carry the right to a fixed 6 per cent dividend, have seen an increase from £60 to issue to £225.

## Munich Re plans US takeover

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN FRANKFURT

MUNICH Re, the world's largest reinsurance group, yesterday revealed plans to take over American Re for \$3.3 billion, boosting its share of the lucrative US market.

The German company said its \$65 per share offer had the backing of Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co (KKR), the investment firm that owns 64 per cent of American Re. The

takeover should be complete by the end of the year. Regulatory authorities and minority shareholders had yet to approve the deal.

Fresh from its shock takeover of Europe's leading health insurer DKV last month, Munich Re said its latest acquisition would increase premium income from reinsurance to DM22.5 billion

and overall income to DM37 billion.

Hans-Juergen Schinzier, the Munich Re management board chairman, said: "The purchase means a big step forward for our core reinsurance business."

American Re is the third largest non-life reinsurance group in the United States with gross premiums of \$2.6

billion and a 10 per cent market share. This compares with expected 1996 premiums of DM300 million at Munich Re's own US unit, Munich American Re.

Pressure increased last month on the US firm to merge with a larger group after General Re Corp, its rival, assimilated fellow-reinsurer National Re Corp.

## Telecoms cash-saver from Racal

By ERIC REGULY

RACAL, the electronics group, has introduced a service, in partnership with BMS Bossard, a management consultancy, aimed at saving money for customers of BT, Mercury and other phone companies.

Racal has determined that phone companies have been overcharging business customers by as much as 5 per cent for data transmission services. The Racal-Bossard service is based on a software tool that identifies discrepancies. There is no fee; Racal and Bossard will take one third of any amount recovered.

Ron Brender, Bossard's managing director, said: "The collective overcharging could easily amount to millions of pounds a year. We know of organisations that are spending as much as £20 million a year on international data transmission." He said the overcharging is typically the result of "human error", such as failing to apply a discount or disconnect a circuit. Mr Brender said the service is unique and may be introduced into foreign markets.

A BT spokesman said: "It is impossible to be absolutely precise on charges. We always reimburse our customers if they are overcharged."

## Ofgas shifts TransCo deadline

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS will have to wait until next Wednesday to hear the pricing curbs to be imposed on TransCo, its pipeline business, after the regulator delayed an announcement for the third time.

The final word on the pricing proposals, first outlined by Clare Spottiswoode in May, was supposed to have been delivered today. But on Monday Ms Spottiswoode ordered re-writing of parts of the report — a process that is still going on. The delays have prompted speculation that Ofgas is moderating its initial proposals, which angered the company and shareholders.

Ms Spottiswoode's initial proposals planned a one-off cut for TransCo's prices next year of between 20 and 25 per cent and thereafter RPI-X per cent for four years. Her figures were on Tuesday broadly mirrored by the electricity regulator's proposals for the National Grid. Price curbs for the transmission business are planned at a one-off charge next year of between 20 per cent and 25 per cent and RPI-X for three years thereafter.

The Energy Intensive Users Group says Ofgas should deliver a pricing review at least in line with that.

Wagner says several takeover approaches have been received

## MAID seeks further alliances

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MAID, the online computer company, said yesterday it was confident of signing new strategic alliances to add to recent deals to supply services to CompuServe, IBM and Forte.

Dan Wagner, founder and chief executive, added that the company had received frequent takeover approaches but was happy to continue on an independent course at present. Mr Wagner would not say which companies had shown an interest in buying MAID, although recent market speculation has centred on Reuters Holdings.

Mr Wagner's comments

came as the company unveiled an interim £3.3 million loss, compared with profits of £408,000 last year. MAID said the loss reflected heavy investment costs. The company does not expect a further increase in operating costs as the expansion programme is complete.

An increased presence in the US and Europe helped turnover to rise 65 per cent to £9.6 million. The company added 1,200 new corporate subscribers in the first six months of this year — double the total number in the full year for 1995.

MAID also revealed details of its new international executive division, designed to supervise the group's global strategy and development. It will be headed by Mr Wagner and will oversee activity in North America, Europe and Asia-Pacific. MAID's base in London will be run by Derek Smith who becomes managing director. The North American business will be run by Jason Mollie, while Ciaran Morton will act as president of Asia-Pacific.

Pennington, page 25



Wagner: founder

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Tradepoint lo

Lloyds Chemists

□ Lloyds Chemists still set for takeover □ Wage rises no threat to inflation □ Wagner confounds City doubters

## Watering down the medicine

□ SOME people are so terribly naive. The stock market has somehow gained the impression that both the rival bidders for Lloyds Chemists, the country's second-biggest chain of pharmacies, have lost some of their enthusiasm for the business.

Their initial offers earlier this year raised clear competition issues in both retail and wholesale pharmaceutical markets, and there was great doubt whether they would be allowed. Instead, a deeply-split Monopolies and Mergers Commission waved them through less than a month ago with relatively trivial conditions attached. One might have expected Lloyds shares to have jumped, to reflect the market's relief. But the price has fallen. Why?

Neither Gehe, the German owner in this country of the AAH business, nor Unichem, the rival bidder, will discuss their intentions. Instead, a sniping campaign, conducted in whispers around the City and in parts of the financial press, seems to have been designed to rubbush the opposition while gently talking down the price that Lloyds may eventually be worth.

Both have until October 18 to comply with the conditions imposed, requiring them to find acceptable buyers for much of Lloyds's wholesale business. If their respective stances can be

judged at all, then Gehe is doing more to talk down expectations than its rival. It is said that the loss of the wholesale business will deprive any eventual purchaser of £3 million of annual profits, rising perhaps beyond £5 million if potential cost savings are taken into account.

It is said that a couple of gloomy trading statements from Lloyds, which have scaled back analysts' profits forecasts by £10 million to £50 million for the year just ended, make the business less valuable. It is even hinted that the sale by the wife of the Lloyds chairman of shares worth £13.5 million while the offers were with the MMC means even the Lloyds camp is worried about the value of the business.

Gehe, a German quoted company with no real reason to lift its skirts and give its competitors inside information, chose to release figures from AAH yesterday. These provided the opportunity to make some comparisons that were not flattering to Unichem.

This is significant, because Gehe was offering cash last time, while Unichem went for cash

and shares. That pattern will be repeated when — and it is a when, not an if — the bidding starts again. Any fall in the Unichem share price would therefore deflate the value of a renewed bid. The Germans initially offered £5 a share, while a replay of Unichem's package today would be worth approaching £30p.

Lloyds shares were 470p last night, which suggests that a new bidding war, in a few weeks' time, will have to be pitched well above this level. Investors would be very foolish to pay too much heed to any further posturing in the meantime.

### The good news is really good news

□ THERE is no reason to feel bad just because a few more people are able to share in the economic expansion. Only City pessimists worry over such things. Growth in average earnings, steady at 3½ per cent since February, has merely failed to fall back to 3.5 per cent, as the surprising (and false) pro-



visional figures for May suggested it would. With inflation at 2.5 to 3 per cent, it would be seriously bad for the economy at this stage if earnings were not making headway in real terms.

Manufacturing earnings have been growing at between 4 and 4½ per cent for more than a year. Thankfully, real pay in service industries has now also stopped falling at last. But the labour market as a whole is still helping to cut inflation.

Pessimists still worry about the higher than expected fall in unemployment in July, taking it down from 7.7 to 7.6 per cent. If you accept the Bank of England line on sustainable growth, which underlies its interest rate advice to the Chancellor, then

any fall in dole queues below about 8 per cent risks stoking up pay demands and strikes, and accelerating inflation.

Over the year to end-March, however, there was hardly any net increase in employment in spite of the number of those claiming benefit falling most months. This subdued picture is unlikely to have changed in the second quarter. Among men, who took most of the jobs in industries sensitive to pay inflation, unemployment is still running above 10 per cent.

Strikes are on the increase, true. But the serious ones are in the public sector, where pay is dictated not by the Treasury's need to keep public spending down artificially at its employees' expense. This would seem to be storing up trouble for the next Chancellor, if not before the election.

In the private sector there is little sign of inflationary pressure. That may not comfort City types who assume that Eddie George will use a temporary rise in retail price inflation, expected today, and falling unemployment to tip the balance in favour

of a pre-emptive rise in interest rates. But logically, if they have faith in the Bank's view they should also believe that a small rate rise now will avoid worse later on — and would therefore be good for asset values.

### When mistakes are MAID

□ IN THE City, Dan Wagner was the client from Hell. Small companies, especially high technology stocks, always come to market with an unshakeable belief in their own worth. The next few months provide a series of road-calming measures that bring them back down to earth.

Mr Wagner's online financial information business MAID arrived as the hottest thing yet. The shares were floated in March 1990 at 110p. Within a couple of months, they were worth less than half that, and Mr Wagner was spitting blood. His advisers bore the brunt of his anger for their failure to ensure the share price reflected his view of the value of his company. He also accused his bigger competitors of

a conspiracy to break his company. So far, so unwise. He acquired a reputation as a troublesome 1980s-style yuppie whose business was destined for an ignominious collapse. How curious that he is now tending off rumours of takeover bids from those same big online rivals. In spite of mounting losses, his company has come of age. Customers are growing at an exponential rate, the 1,200 added in the first half doubling the subscriber base. Costs have risen to cope with this, but the first profits are due next year.

Three things can happen now. Those competitors can use their commercial clout to crush the upstart. They might or might not be successful — its product is better than much of the competition. They can try to buy the company, but the board has 40 per cent and will not come cheap. Or they can leave him to build the business further through strategic alliances. The shares were 27½ last night, that price may be impossible to relate to any normal investment criterion, and their progress so far has been erratic.

But we probably need more people like Dan Wagner, who has put together a business from scratch without recourse to a series of financially-driven takeovers. And one or two people in the City owe him an apology.



Gareth Davies, left, and Bruce Ralph, chief executive, hope for better economic conditions to revive Glynwed

## Glynwed knocked by fall in metals prices

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LOWER metals prices and difficult trading conditions at home and abroad hit first-half profits at Glynwed, the engineering group based in Birmingham.

The company reported pre-tax profits down 3.1 per cent to £40.2 million from £41.5 million a year ago.

Glynwed's shares slid 18p to 332p as analysts revised down their forecasts for the full year from around £94 million to £86 million.

The dividend for the six months ending June 29 is being maintained at 4.4p per ordinary share. It will be paid on December 4.

On top of the sharp fall in metals prices, a cut in capital

spending by British and German industrialists had a negative impact on Glynwed's industrial piping business. This was exacerbated by a fall in demand from the UK gas industry.

However, Glynwed's results were bolstered by an £8.3 million operating profit from the Victorian water pipes business it bought a year ago.

The stepped-up programme of pipe repairs and replacement of mains supply systems by the UK water industry, which looks set to continue, helped demand in that side of the business.

There was also some good news from the company's consumer products side,

which includes Aga-Rayburn cookers, where demand picked up. The growth in pub catering also helped commercial cooker sales.

Gareth Davies, chairman, said that the company was hoping for better economic conditions to revive its fortunes. "In the UK, consumer spending is rising and housing markets are becoming more active," he said. "Provided that the anticipated improvement in economic conditions materialises, we are confident of sound progress in the second half of the year."

Analysts stressed that a recovery depended on metal prices recovering and on growth, so far uncertain, in

industrial and consumer demand.

The group's turnover was £677.3 million, up 11.2 per cent from £609.2 million. Net earnings per share were down 16.9 per cent at 10.99p compared with 13.23p in the same period last year.

The company has restructured into three divisions: metals (processing and distribution); pipe systems; and consumer and construction products. Glynwed said the new structure should sharpen its focus. It is also continuing to look for opportunities to dispose of non-core businesses.

Tempos, page 26

### City Centre to expedite food outlets

CITY CENTRE Restaurants is accelerating its expansion programme in the next six months, aiming to open 34 new restaurants and converting eight established outlets to new brands (Alasdair Murray writes).

City Centre, best-known for its Deep Pan Pizza, Garfunkels and Nachos chains, yesterday unveiled a 2 per cent increase in half-year profits, to £6.4 million. Turnover increased by 18 per cent, to £61 million.

The company said profits were held back by heavy investment in new outlets, totalling £870,000. It has a policy of writing off all investment as it occurs.

The dividend was maintained at 0.45p, payable on October 11. Shares slipped 11p, to 117p, as analysts downgraded forecasts.

## Generator waiting game for Treasury

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury has no immediate plans to unload its British Energy shares in spite of its commitment to a programme launched last year to sell off its debt and equity in privatised industries.

The Treasury has been left holding more than 12 per cent of the nuclear generator's shares after the company's flotation proved a disappointment and the shares plunged to a discount on the first day of trading. Now the Treasury will have to wait for the market to pick up before selling on the shares. A large sale now is likely to depress an already fragile price, which yesterday stood at 101½p, only fractionally up on the 100p paid by private investors.

Last year the Treasury launched a scheme to sell its stakes in the privatised industries. It has since sold stakes

held in some regional electricity companies and water companies. However, it still has a scattering of interests across the privatised utilities, including 34 million shares in National Power and 22 million in PowerGen.

BZW, co-ordinator of British Energy's flotation, yesterday confirmed that banks in the sale syndicate would have to buy back some of the shares sold to institutions if those investment bodies sold before November 22.

The banks had agreed to underwrite sales to some institutions in order to secure share allocations. The arrangement, which will be policed by the Department of Trade and Industry, stabilises the price of British Energy, meaning that if institutions bail out of the shares, the banks will have to buy them back.

### Surprise for City from JRA

J ROTHCHILD Assurance Holdings (JRA), the life company founded in 1991 by Sir Mark Weinberg and Lord Rothschild, yesterday surprised the market with better than expected half-year results (Robert Miller writes).

New life and pensions business in the six months to June 30 jumped 64 per cent to £39.7 million, helping the insurer to a post-tax half-time profit of £4.1 million against £1 million last time. Sir Mark said: "The results are a positive indication that the bad position for the life industry appears to be in the past."

The group's Life Assurance Holding Corporation (LAHC), which acquires ailing or underperforming life offices, reported a £7.8 million pre-tax profit.

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## Tradepoint loses £5.6m

By FRASER NELSON

TRADEPOINT, the firm that broke the London Stock Exchange's monopoly on UK share trading last year, has so far failed to make a serious impact on the market.

The AIM-listed group said that its daily share of the UK equities market had yet to top 0.5 per cent. It still hopes its order-driven trading system will reach its break-even level of a 2 per cent share by the end of next year.

Tradepoint launched its trading system last September. Full-year results released

yesterday, covering the first six months of operation, showed a loss of £5.68 million. Michael Waller-Bridge, chief executive, said that 41 firms had now signed up. By automatically matching buyers and sellers, Tradepoint eliminates the need to pay market-makers commission.

Tradepoint's maiden sales were £77,700. Annual costs totalled £5.91 million, against £4.14 million last time. Its shares held to 130p yesterday, 45p below the price of the April placing.



Waller-Bridge: "below par"

### Capital set on Net gain in AIM deal

By FRASER NELSON

CAPITAL & Western Estates, a property company listed on AIM, yesterday announced £14 million of deals that will see it acquire one of its quoted rivals and then turn itself into an Internet access provider.

Through a complex series of share transactions, C&W is buying fellow property minor Ballynatray, also on AIM, and the privately-owned Global Internet. The deals value Ballynatray at more than £8 million, and Global Internet at about £6 million.

Although C&W's management has no track record in Internet technology management, the company said it has been looking for an acquisition to escape from the moribund housing market. Global is owned and run by Jan Murray, who founded PC World, the computer chain sold to Dixons in 1993.

Shares in Ballynatray rose ½p, to 6½p, yesterday, while C&W's shares were suspended at 2½p. After a consolidation, shares in the new enlarged group are to return at 20p.

## Lloyds Chemists re-bid nearer

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

SKIRMISHING broke out in the Lloyds Chemists takeover battle yesterday, with Gehe of Germany saying it is close to fulfilling the requirements that will allow it to re-bid.

The DTI last month ruled that rival bids by Gehe and Unichem, which had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, could not go ahead unless

buyers could be identified for some of Lloyds's pharmaceutical wholesaling depots. Gehe has until October 18 to find buyers for seven depots, while Unichem must find buyers for six.

Karl-Gerhard Eick, chief financial officer of Gehe, said the company hopes within two to three weeks to present its list of buyers. Unichem said it remained hopeful of fulfilling the DTI conditions, but would

give no indication of when. Gehe yesterday reported a 48 per cent jump in operating profits to £24.5 million in the six months to June 30 at AAH, the UK pharmaceutical wholesaler it bought last year. Herr Eick said that Gehe is continuing to re-assess the value of Lloyds in the light of a profits warning in early July, but said: "Despite everything, we are still very interested in acquiring the business."



THE TIMES  
CITY DIARYIn the frame  
for a ticket

INDEPENDENT Insurance really ought to consider taking out one of its own special events insurance policies for the firm's next photo-shoot.

Posing next to a fleet of shiny new Metros, sponsored by Independent Insurance, Michael Bright, the chief executive, and Garth Ramsay, the chairman, looked just the picture for yesterday's interim results.

Then two zealous traffic wardens walked onto the scene, and no amount of cajolery could dissuade either of them from plastering parking tickets on two of the cars as well as the transporter that they arrived in.

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Will the Bundesbank finally  
abandon the monetarist ship?

Germany considers  
next week whether  
to cut interest  
rates. The decision  
has far-reaching  
consequences

Has the Bundesbank finally come to its senses? I had started to write an article about the dangers to the world economy from the growing possibility that the dollar's long-term upward trend might be temporarily reversed. Then suddenly yesterday morning the Bundesbank knocked away the major premise of my argument.

When Otmar Issing, the Bundesbank chief economist, told the *International Herald Tribune* that "an appreciation of the D-mark does not fit into the current economic landscape", and added that the German economic recovery "is not yet robust", he was merely stating the obvious. But coming from Europe's most erratic economic institution, such elementary common sense inspired an amazing insight: perhaps, after all, the Bundesbank is not hell-bent on an irrational campaign of global sabotage and national self-destruction.

For months, if not years now, every rational observer of the global economy has agreed that Germany and the world both badly need lower German interest rates and a weaker mark. But the idea that the Bundesbank might finally have come to understand this self-evident truth was so astonishing that almost nobody I spoke to yesterday was willing to believe that Dr Issing really meant what he said. After all, Dr Issing himself told another paper only a few days earlier that the German economy was doing well, that a small cut in interest rates would not be beneficial and that the Bundesbank's policy would continue to be governed by the money supply.

The Bundesbank is the only central bank that still claims to operate by the monetarist theories discredited and abandoned in every other country. It is like the court of Pope Urban VIII, which continued to believe that the earth was flat after everybody else had realised it was round and revolved around the sun.

Given this difference in philosophical outlook, it is hardly surprising that the Bundesbank consistently does the opposite of what markets and other central bankers expect — and that so few people yesterday were willing to believe in the sincerity of Dr Issing's recantation.

The sceptics may well prove right, although I personally think it was significant that yesterday's statement came from Dr Issing rather than from Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President. Dr Issing has long been the main opponent of monetary easing, as well as the most convinced monetarist, on the Bundesbank council. He is generally believed to have been the leader of the hardline faction at last month's council meeting, which dissuaded Herr Tietmeyer from pressing for lower rates.

In addition, Dr Issing has repeatedly made it clear that he strongly opposes the plan to submerge the mark in a European Monetary Union. Thus a comment from him implying that he is having second thoughts about the tightness of German monetary policy and the strength of the mark, may actually carry more weight in the present conjuncture than a similar

comment from Herr Tietmeyer, who is known as an internationalist and an advocate of monetary union.

One way or another, we will know soon enough whether Dr Issing was serious. The Bundesbank's next council meeting is a week from today. If there is then no rate cut, those who believe that Germany is living in a pre-Copernican world will have their fears confirmed.

The implications for Europe and the entire world economy will be dire. If, on the other hand, there is even a small rate cut, the world can have a sigh of relief. Financial markets may focus again on fundamental values and the long-term changes in technology, demographics, fiscal policy and the structure of world trade are now more favourable to America than they are to Japan and Europe.

In addition, I believe there is a third strong reason for the dollar to keep rising in the long term. This is that European long-term investors such as pension funds (as opposed to short-term speculators) are extremely "short" of American equities and will eventually become buyers of dollars on an enormous scale. But since I have not met a single financial analyst who agrees, I shall not labour this point at the moment.

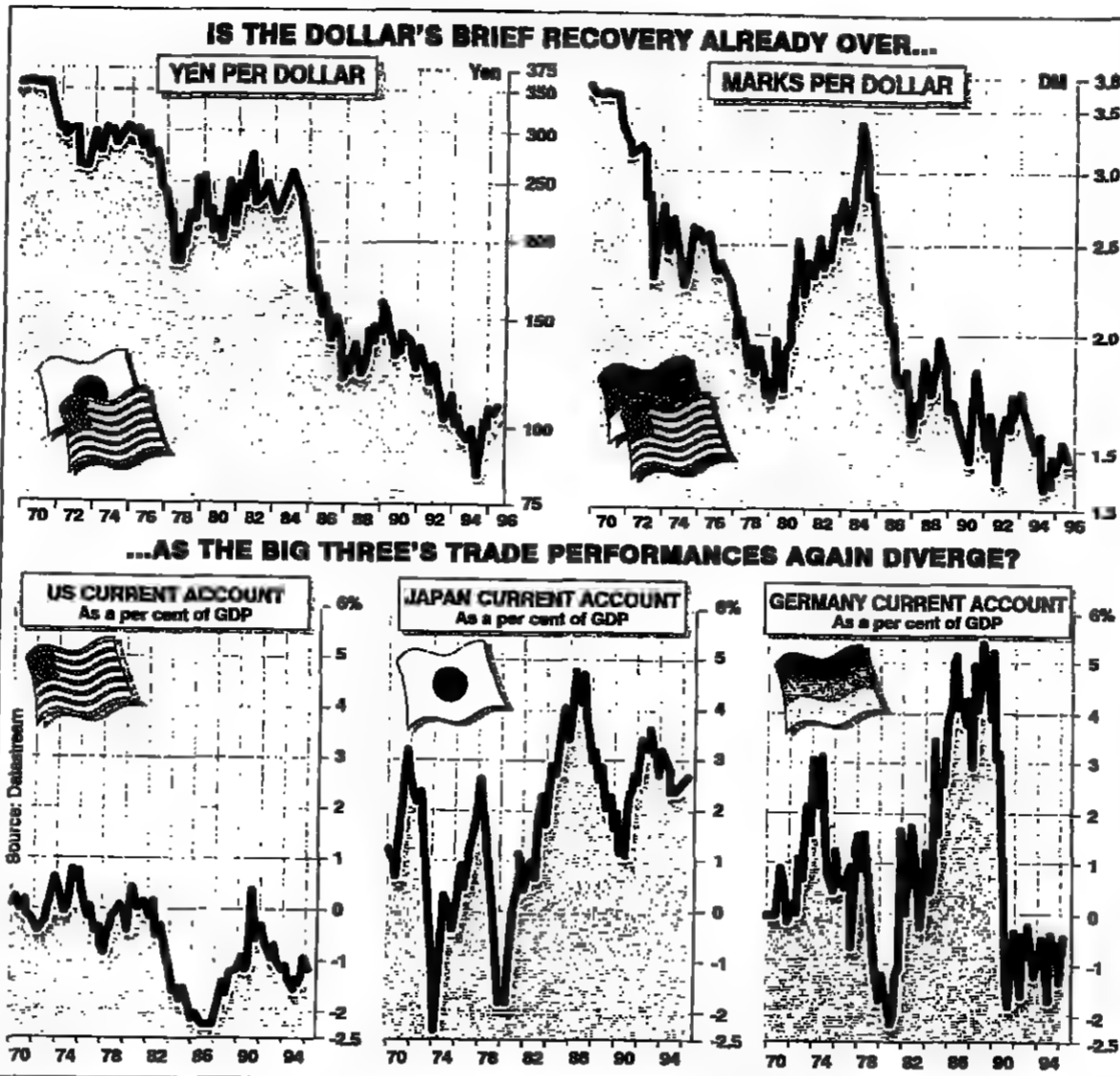
But whatever one thinks of these long-term arguments for a strong dollar, there is no denying the American currency is vulnerable in the short term. The dynamics of financial markets are such that even if speculators are "right" on economic grounds to buy dollars, they could decide to reverse their positions rapidly if the Bundesbank plays its cards wrongly.

The danger of such a reversal is particularly clear today because the

never be a high profile business hotel," says Mr O'Connell, adding that only 40 per cent of the hotel's guests are there on company work compared with 65 per cent at the Savoy. "We are never going to be a fax/mobile phone envi-

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improvement of the US trade deficit has temporarily stalled (largely, I suspect, because of the strength of demand in America and weak growth in Europe).

In fact, if the Bundesbank acts as foolishly next week as the Bank of Japan did last spring, Germany could suffer from a run into its currency every bit as disastrous as the one that hit Japan. The consequences would not, of course, be identical. Germany's banks would not suffer a financial meltdown (although I have heard reports from well-placed sources that many of the second-tier German banks could prove as vulnerable to a combination of recession and deregulation as the American savings and loans turned out to be 10 years ago). Instead Germany would be threatened by an industrial disaster, as its traditional manufacturing industries became completely uncompetitive in world markets.

To make matters much worse, the malignant hardening of the mark would quickly spread its cancerous effects to the rest of Europe. France would obviously be the first victim, unless President Chirac made good on the vague threats about cutting loose from the mark that have circulated in Paris in the past few days. And, in the unlikely event that President Chirac did have the good sense to sever the franc-mark link, this would strike a second massive blow against German exports.

One senior European central banker recently put it like this: if the mark strengthened and France abandoned the franc fort "a crisis for Europe would become a catastrophe for Germany."

Will the Bundesbank risk triggering such a catastrophe? The world will find out next Thursday, but I shall be on holiday for two weeks in the west of Ireland. I will be back to survey the wreckage on September 5.

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Banking on  
the desired  
outcome for  
Irish TSB

Eileen McCabe looks at the prospects  
for the sale of the state-run institution

The promised radical overhaul of the Irish Republic's state banking sector has now been whittled down to one issue. How can Ruairi Quinn, Ireland's Finance Minister, sell the Trustee Savings Bank (TSB) to the National Australia Bank when Ulster Bank, a NatWest Bank subsidiary, is probably prepared to pay a higher price?

The lengthy process of reports, committees and negotiation on the future of three banks — the TSB, the Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) and the Industrial Credit Corporation (ICC) — will end at the Cabinet meeting on September 4. The role of the state banking sector was thrust into the spotlight two years ago when the National Australia Bank and the Ulster Bank both made offers of more than Ir£100 million for TSB.

Mr Quinn, a Labour Party member, was widely believed to want to engineer the disposal of the three banks in such a way that the state would continue to exercise some influence over developments, particularly in relation to banking access for the low-paid and those on social welfare.

However, it now appears that political expediency has won the day, with the more conservative partner in the three-party government coalition, Fine Gael, likely to have baulked at the idea of serious intervention in the sector.

According to well-placed sources, Mr Quinn is now likely to suggest that only the TSB should be sold and the proceeds used to inject much-needed capital into the state-owned ACC and the ICC. He will also keep his own party and his Democratic Left colleagues happy by setting up a banking commission to examine the provision of quality banking services to welfare recipients and those on low pay.

The recapitalisation suggestion will ruffle few feathers because both the ACC and the ICC will remain small players with a combined market share of between 3 and 4 per cent. They are specialist institutions set up to provide funding for

industry and agriculture, and are profit-makers. Both have managed to carve out a distinctive niche in the market.

The real dilemma for Mr Quinn is who should be allowed to buy the TSB. Although the proceeds from the sale goes to the Exchequer, the TSB, unlike the ACC and the ICC, is run by a board of independent trustees. They have said they want to be taken over by the National Australia Bank because they believe that the TSB's 70 countrywide outlets would fuse well with the similar-sized operations of the National Irish Bank (NIB), the Australian bank's Irish subsidiary.

Fortunately for them, the Minister for Finance is prepared to give his blessing to that marriage, but for very different reasons. Sources say the minister is convinced that if the National Australia Bank is not given an opportunity to more than double its 2 to 3 per cent market share in the Republic by acquiring TSB, it will simply lose interest and pull out altogether. From Mr Quinn's point of view, that would be undesirable. It would probably allow the Ulster Bank, which currently has a market share of almost 7 per cent, to mop up both the TSB and the NIB. Instead of having a vibrant sector with two giants — Allied Irish Bank and Bank of Ireland — sniping at each other over their combined market share of anywhere 80 to 87 per cent and two medium-sized players — the Ulster bank and the combined TSB/NIB — jockeying for position, Irish banking would have only three key players.

However, Mr Quinn will have to perform some deft footwork to get the outcome he favours because the Ulster Bank has made it known that it is prepared to top any offer from the National Australia Bank. And the whole decision-making process has taken so long that two other hungry contenders — the Irish Nationwide Building Society and the Irish Permanent bank — are believed to have joined the purchase queue.

Mr Quinn is expected to set up a banking commission

ing business and conference facilities is an important part of the changes at the Savoy, where telephone, computer, fax and conference facilities have all been improved, and guests will soon be able to video conference from their room.

The banqueting department at the Savoy hosts around six functions of various kinds on average every week. This does not, however, include those meetings that take place in the hotel's seven private rooms that are available for hire. In the bedrooms of the Savoy, no attempt is made to disguise the business facilities available,

whereas the Ritz, the first London hotel to have a telephone in every room, makes every effort so that bedroom suites "should not look like an office."

Michael Twomey, 66, master of ceremonies at the Ritz, who is celebrating his 46th year with the hotel, has witnessed most of the changes among corporate clientele. "Company business used to be much more leisurely. People would come in for lunch, and wouldn't leave until four." Much less meat is eaten now, and sparkling water has replaced the brandy at the end of a long lunch, he says.

GROUPE PARIBAS

Public tender offer of Groupe Paribas for Compagnie Financière Ottomane

Groupe Paribas announces that following its public offer to purchase the entire share capital and all founder's shares of Compagnie Financière Ottomane S.A., it held 96% of the company's capital and 95% of its founder's shares.

## Putting on the Ritz to mark its 90th birthday

Morag Preston on changes that  
show how Barclays mean business

On the terrace that overlooks Green Park, the Ritz Hotel will celebrate its 90th birthday tonight. Only eleven months after the exclusive Barclay Brothers bought one of London's grandest hotels from Trafalgar House for £75 million, the Ritz will be showing off its multi-pound refurbishment to an increasingly corporate clientele.

Within months of the twin millionaires taking the Ritz into private ownership, a growing number of businessmen have made their way through the hotel's Arlington Street entrance. Long overshadowed by the Savoy, which boasts a doorway hidden from the main road, greater space, and is situated only a cab ride away from City, does this mean that with private funds and a managing director who worked for 15 years at its rival hotel, the Ritz will relaunch itself as a "business centre"?

According to Tom O'Connell, general manager of the

Ritz, who has been much involved in the transformation of the hotel back to its original Louis XVI splendour: "Since Giles Shepard has been here and the hotel has been in the hands of its present owners, people have been reminded of the Ritz as a venue. The Barclay Brothers are known and respected in the City. Those at the decision-making level in companies are swayed by that level of private ownership."

KPMG, SG Warburg, Ernst & Young, Salomon Brothers, and Sedgwick, are among the companies that make frequent use of the Ritz. Midway between home in West London and work in the City, the hotel is an increasingly popular haunt for business breakfasts and presentations for up to 30 people are held twice a week on average over lunch and dinner in the hotel's Marie Antoinette Room. Overhead projectors, computers, and faxes are also available — but only on demand. "We will

never be a high profile business hotel," says Mr O'Connell, adding that only 40 per cent of the hotel's guests are there on company work compared with 65 per cent at the Savoy. "We are never going to be a fax/mobile phone envi-

ronment. — other hotels in London do that much better than us. What we want to offer people is a respite from the business world, and there is clearly a market for the Ritz away from that."

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Opulent Louis XVI decor greets visitors to the Ritz

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oned by Mr Shepard, managing director at the Ritz since December 1995, who was shown the door at the Savoy after leading a 13-year campaign against Sir Kocco Forte, and was once quoted as saying that he did not wish to see Savoy Hotels in the "hands of a vast combine which, among other things, runs service stations on the main arterial roads."

According to Mr Shepard, who has masterminded the installation of new air-conditioning and windows at the Ritz, and who intends to turn the hotel's shops into a bar area: "We would never want it to be more than a 50/50 split between business and leisure. We prefer to have small corporate parties because we can't handle big ones. There is no point kicking against the size and shape of the building."

Meanwhile, at the Savoy, where Denis Thatcher enjoys his favourite fish cakes and Jeffrey Archer had a vegetarian sausage named after him, refurbishment is also taking place. It ought to be finished by autumn, around the same time as the Ritz's restoration programme, but that is where the similarities end. Improv-

ing business and conference facilities is an important part of the changes at the Savoy, where telephone, computer, fax and conference facilities have all been improved, and guests will soon be able to video conference from their room.

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## Game is over for Nintendo genius

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

THE creator of Game Boy, Nintendo's popular video game, is to quit the company.

The departure of Gunpei Yokoi, 55, who headed the team that developed the world's best-selling hand-held 16-bit game machine, follows industry reports that sluggish sales would have an adverse impact on Nintendo's profits.

The company's shares were suspended in Tokyo yesterday as the company sought to allay fears that its sales had been affected by price-cutting by rivals and by the lack of attractive software.

Mr Yokoi, who is to become a consultant, is being blamed for sluggish sales of Virtual Boy, the 32-bit game machine, which he helped to develop to succeed Game Boy.

Nintendo officially denied reports that sluggish sales would reduce its half-year profits by 70 per cent, and said its new 64-bit game machine is selling well in both Japan and the United States.

Earlier in the day Nintendo shares came under heavy selling on the Tokyo and Osaka stock exchanges after newspaper stories predicted a sharp fall in its unconsolidated pre-tax profit.

Both exchanges suspended trading in Nintendo shares in the afternoon session. There have been persistent industry rumours that Nintendo 64 sales have been badly hit by a lack of attractive software and by Sony cutting the price of its 32-bit PlayStation.

Nintendo holds nearly half the Japanese games market, but is up against aggressive competition from the Sony Playstation and Sega Enterprises' Saturn.

At a hastily organised press conference Hiroshi Imanishi, Nintendo director, said the company expects to meet its sales forecast for the new machines in the current fiscal year.



Fully covered: Michael Bright, left, chief executive, and Garth Ramsay, chairman, with one of the cars insured by Independent

## Independent Insurance sets sights on more acquisitions

By ROBERT MILLER

INDEPENDENT Insurance, the insurer that operates only through brokers, has beefed up its acquisitions team after unveiling a 15 per cent increase in half-year profits, to £6.7 million.

The acquisitive insurer is seeking further deals after last December's purchase of La Palatine, a French company.

Michael Bright, chief executive, said yesterday: "We are

actively looking for suitable companies to buy and we expect to pay for these using existing resources, rather than calling on our shareholders. We have drafted in both external and internal people to look at suitable acquisitions, both in Britain and in France."

Mr Bright added: "In my previous statement I referred to the irresponsible actions of others and the inevitable casu-

alties that would result. The withdrawals and consolidations taking place within the industry continue to be a rich source of opportunity for us." Investment income, including La Palatine's contribution, rose by a substantial 87 per cent, to £15.5 million, while gross written premiums were up 12 per cent, to £232.7 million, in the six months to June 30, against £207.1 million

in the same period last year. Earnings per share, excluding realised investment gains, increased to 23.6p, from 21.5p last time. La Palatine made an underwriting loss of £3.5 million but is expected to break even by the end of the year.

Independent rewarded shareholders by lifting the half-time dividend to 5.3p, payable on October 31, up from 4.6p. Shareholder funds rose to £150.9

million, from £98.9 million. Within the Independent Insurance portfolio, commercial property produced gross written premiums of £36.3 million, against £47.7 million last time. This led to an underwriting loss of £1.6 million, compared with a £2.6 million profit. The IRA bomb in Manchester cost Independent £1 million net of reinsurance.

On the home front, and in spite of adverse weather claims, the group still delivered an underwriting profit of £200,000, albeit well down on last year's £2.3 million contribution. In motor business, Independent Insurance saw gross written premium fall by 14 per cent, to £19.9 million, against £16.1 million last time.

In the international division gross written premium was £17.2 million, with an underwriting loss of £3 million, compared with a previous profit of £200,000.

The market marked the share up 10p, to close at 500p.

Diary, page 27

## Hoechst doubles in first half

FROM REUTERS IN FRANKFURT

HOECHST, the German chemicals and drugs group, more than doubled pre-tax profits to DM4.3 billion in the first half of 1996, and forecast annual profit would rise by at least 30 per cent.

Latest profits were enhanced by a net extraordinary gain of DM2.1 billion, of which DM1.8 billion stemmed from disposals. Op-

erating profits rose 18 per cent on a comparable basis.

Sales in the first six months slipped nearly 1 per cent, to DM26.1 billion. Sales volume increased 3 per cent but prices fell 3 per cent, the group said.

Hoechst shares, among the most heavily traded issues in Frankfurt, slipped five pfennigs to DM51.25 on profit-taking on the news, after the

market had pushed shares higher in anticipation of strong results.

The pre-tax profit figure was well above analysts' forecasts, which had ranged from DM2.56 billion to DM2.75 billion.

Hoechst is the second of Germany's so-called three chemical giants to post its results. Bayer reported its

numbers on Monday and BASF will report its results on August 22.

Klaus Schmieder, chief financial officer, forecast that 1996 pre-tax and operating profit would be at least 30 per cent higher than in 1995.

Hoechst said that it had no plans for more significant asset sales in the second half of this year.

## Respect for the tried and tested

Rod Hill and John Everett report how a survey of finance directors reassures, yet prompts concern

Never let it be said that finance directors do not have a sense of fun. It has just surfaced briefly in the 1996 financial management survey conducted by the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group.

More than half of the 561 finance directors in leading British companies who were approached (actually 54 per cent of them) were prepared to go along with the notion that their financial books will be in "real time" by the year 2000. However, it is clear that even the questioners suspected they were having their legs pulled by the replies. "Can the accountants' dream of closing the books at the touch of a button really be that close?" the survey editors ponder.

Press-button accounting and time for golf every afternoon may still be some distance ahead for finance directors. Meanwhile, the new survey, which covers companies with a combined turnover exceeding £75 billion and employing more than 500,000 people, is candid and revealing. Indeed, it manages to achieve the opposites of being both reassuring and worrying about aspects of the current state of UK financial manage-

ment. On the credit side of the ledger, it emphasises that businesses are using sound financial management better and more effectively than at any time in the past. Businesses are measuring the right things to bring about the better functioning of the enterprise. Finance directors are generally satisfied that their departments are working properly. And there is a high level of agreement on how things will change in the future.

An overwhelming 91 per cent of the finance directors surveyed believe that their finance function adds value to their business, prompting the report's conclusion: "There is clearly a lot of good feeling." We do wonder, in passing, whether the 9 per cent who disagreed with the proposition might be well advised to take up another line of work.

On the debit side of the ledger the survey suggests an inclination to stick to the tried and tested rather than embrace new ideas. The editors acknowledge that "the levels of awareness of financial management tools and techniques were low... where the techniques had been used they had not been as successful as might have been expected." This comes as no surprise to



Rod Hill, left, and John Everett. No need for golf lessons yet

CIMA, which has continued to put considerable effort into training in, and awareness of, the latest management tools and techniques for financial managers.

Paul Fuller, one of the survey editors and a partner at Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, finds it disappointing that only 13 per cent of finance directors understand value

management, only 24 per cent understand business process re-engineering, and only 42 per cent understand activity-based management. He suggests that those weaknesses may point to the reason (as the survey also shows) less than 25 per cent of financial management projects achieve their targets.

When it comes to measuring

organisational performance, profit is by far the most widely used measure among finance directors. It is followed by cashflow and turnover. Share price-related measures are the least widely used. More than 90 per cent of the respondents rated profit as the prime measure of performance, compared with 72 per cent supporting quality measures, 73 per cent sales volume and working capital, and 80 per cent customer service levels.

Looking to the future, more than 70 per cent of the finance directors surveyed believe that there will be stronger pressures to reduce finance costs, to automate basic accounting systems, and to move towards fully integrated total business systems such as Oracle and SAP. However, only 30 per cent believe that the use of appropriate systems will bring about reductions in the staffing of financial departments.

The implication is that finance department empires will be heavily defended against cutbacks planned in the name of automation. No need to book the golf lessons yet!

Rod Hill is president of CIMA, and John Everett is managing partner at Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group. Financial Management Survey 1996: The current state of financial management in UK PLCs, published by CIMA and the Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group, is available from CIMA Publishing on 0171-617 9229.

annual General Practitioners' conference, organised by the English ICA in Cambridge, could be in for a very short after-dinner speech. Ian Nichol of Coopers & Lybrand is the star turn. Among other offerings he has been known to speak on is the subject of "The Joy of Accounting". He claims to have got that particular lecture, for all its enthralling subject matter, down to a mere 17 seconds.

ROBERT BRUCE

### Music to their ears

CHANTREY VELLACOTT appears to have a bit of a coup on his hands.

Jerome Walton, the accountant whose famous clients in the music business include Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones, has decided that the independent life is no longer right for him. He has just joined Chantrey Vellacott as a partner. It is, as jazz musi-

cians would point out, nice work if you can get it. And with the Rolling Stones it has the added benefit in the fees.

As Chris Sandford pointed out in his classic biography of Mick Jagger, the Rolling Stones lead singer: "He had a morbid fear of losing all his money." Accountants have been hard at work reassuring him ever since.

### Circuit judge

IF YOU do not know your non-ACMP-adequate collateral from your duration-based approach, then you could be in trouble. But help is at hand. Coopers & Lybrand has produced an extraordinary white chart that looks more like a circuit diagram for a complex telecoms system than the

"financial jungle briefing" that it says it is. For Investment Services Directive firms it provides a guide to how to comply with the SFA's capital adequacy rules. To get your copy, contact Paul Sanders on 0171 212 5279.

### Counted out

DELEGATES to next month's

## Blowing the whistle on a big-money game

FOOTBALL is a desperately limited game. Who would invent a game in which the ball is propelled around a pitch by the bluntest of blunt instruments — the feet and the head? It is no wonder that the skills employed are so much less complex and sophisticated compared with most other sports. And it is small wonder that the actual games themselves are more likely to be stunningly dull than wonderfully exciting. But that, as football fans know, is not the point.

Fans go for the passion of the crowds, not the game. It is, as a friend pointed out, the only place left where people can feel part of some roaring tribal gathering.

This odd disconnection between the sport and the reason its supporters turn up is reflected in the way the game has developed. At this point of the footballing year it has become a tradition that Gerry Boon, Deloitte & Touche's expert on the subject, sends his firm's annual review of football finance down the tunnel and out onto the pitch. As ever, this year's edition shows what a bizarre sport football is.

The cash from people turning up to watch the games continued to slide as a percentage of the sport's total income. It is now down to 42 per cent. Wages and salaries continued to spiral upwards and now absorb 52 per cent of the game's total income. Overall the game made a pre-tax loss of £14.1 million on a total income of £468 million. As Boon himself will tell you, football is full of paradoxes. The biggest is the gap between the Premier-ship clubs and the rest. "It used to be a gap," says Boon. "This year it's a gulf. Next year it will be a yawning chasm."

He is right. Manchester United and Newcastle United together have a greater turnover than the whole of Division One. The average operating profit for a Premier-ship club was £2.24 million. The other divisions have only operating losses. In Division One the average operating loss was £703,000. And the top clubs have scooped the income 69 per cent of the income goes to Premier-ship clubs.

So football has a problem. The product, the actual games themselves, do not produce significant income. But, as Boon would argue, without the product you will not sell the shirts, keep the television people interested or bring in the sponsorship.

Take the example of the champions. Manchester United's turnover, says the report, rose 38 per cent with increases in all business areas but boosted by a huge leap in merchandising and other sales to £23.5 million — an increase of 65 per cent, and a 71 per cent increase in television revenue to £6.8 million. As for the actual football itself, gate receipts rose a relatively modest 10 per cent.

It needs a marketing expert to fathom out the future. At present, football, to put it at its simplest, is buoyed by sales of fancy shirts at mammoth mark-ups. It is very hard for anyone to predict how long that can carry on. The sector the clubs are selling to is cash-rich but relatively unsophisticated.

It is against this background that football clubs are now being lured into the idea of going for a listing. "It is our view," says Deloitte & Touche, "that by the year 2000, there are likely to be 12 or 15 football clubs which have a listing on either the main Stock Exchange or the Alternative Investment Market. There are a limited number of clubs that will qualify for such a position in our view."

The report does not say how many are fit for listing, but Boon will happily tell you, without naming any names of course, that four is the number that comes to mind. "There is," he says, "more institutional interest chasing a small amount of sensible stock."

So the bright new future of football clubs listed on a serious stock market is also likely to end in tears for most investors and clubs. One of the Deloitte & Touche report's criteria for a successful listing is "the ability, and willingness, to deal with the 'glare of publicity' that arises from being a public company in addition to that which normally attaches to football". Given the game's track record in such games, the future of the business end of the game is far from bright.

Even with the money which pours in from the merchandising and the television rights, the game, according to Boon, "is not building a platform for the future. All it has done is just about squared it for the future". When you look at football from the financial angle, nothing makes sense.

Boon says: "It is a big-money game. But that passion has not been converted into enterprises whose turnovers rocket ahead of profits. Ending in tears is the least of it."



ROBERT BRUCE

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**F I L E - R - F R E D O N Y**

## Shares edge up in slow trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996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## ■ FILM 1

Heavy guilt, heavy drama, as Jack Nicholson stars in Sean Penn's *The Crossing Guard*



## ■ FILM 2

... while a deglamourised Sharon Stone goes onto *Death Row* in the limp *Last Dance*

THE TIMES  
ARTS

## ■ FILM 3

Johnny Depp is the unwilling assassin in the passable but unexceptional *Nick of Time*



## ■ FILM 4

The short but powerful *Hunger Artist* reveals British director Bernard Rudden as a name to watch

CINEMA: Geoff Brown watches a star's second celluloid creation sink under the weight of its own portentousness

# Penn portrait shaded with a heavy hand

Reviewing *The Indian Runner*, Sean Penn's first film as a writer and director, I expressed the hope that he might have "washed the indulgent gloom from his system" when he came to make film number two. Fat chance. Look at *The Crossing Guard*. Freddy, a divorced jeweller who fritters away his nights in topless bars, announces his intention to avenge himself on John Booth, the drunk driver who killed his seven-year-old daughter. Booth, just released from prison, carries his own mental burden, so much so that he frightens away friends. "I think your guilt is a little too much competition for me," says Jolo the painter, a sensitive flower. "You should let me know when you want life." Heavy thoughts. Heavy words. Heavy film.

Yet even supposing you could actually lift it, no one should toss this film aside. Where most actors who turn directors strut like peacocks or muscle in on the big-budget action genre, Sean Penn uses his new power to stay off-screen and make modern-day Greek tragedies with limited box-office appeal. In this arena he may not be a match for his obvious mentor, John Cassavetes, but his ambitions still deserve respect.

And if Penn's ambitions often exceed his talent, he knows how to draw on the talents of others. Jack Nicholson is the jeweller and David Morse his intended victim, while Anjelica Huston eerily shadows her own past relationship with Nicholson, playing his ex-wife and sparring partner. With such a cast, how can you not keep watching?

Nicholson and Huston's scenes together are few, but they raise the temperature in a film that sadly grows ever more lugubrious as characters consume themselves with guilt or hate. Humour bubbles up when Nicholson's demons (and eyebrows) start ascending and he lets fly at an irate customer returning a ring. Later, unintended laughter creeps in when our Jack, scarcely in prime condition, is chased interminably over streets, fences and gardens: a sequence that suggests Penn's forte will never be choreographing action.

For this film to work we need

**The Crossing Guard**  
Curzon West End, 15, 115 mins  
Portentous family drama from Sean Penn

**Last Dance**  
Odeon Haymarket, 18, 105 mins  
What's Sharon Stone doing on *Death Row*?

**Nick of Time**  
National Film Theatre, 89 mins  
Why must Johnny Depp kill the Governor of California?

**Hunger Artist**  
ICA Cinematheque, 65 mins  
Promising British director leaves a calling card

more chinks of light to penetrate the portentous gloom, and more signs of control from a director who means well but is apt to jump on any passing stylistic trick. Slow-motion photography, for instance. We scarcely need such underlining to remind us that some piece of action is meaningful. In *The Crossing Guard*, for better or worse, everything is meaningful.

*Last Dance* also intends to be taken seriously. Look at its star, Sharon Stone. Coarse, reddish hair. A scar on her neck. A tattoo on her right hand. And an unflinching prison uniform. She is on *Death Row* in some unspecified southern state, a piece of white trash facing death by lethal syringe for a double murder committed 12 years ago. Like Sean Penn's character in *Dead Man Walking*, her guilt is never in question — but that does not stop Rob Morrow, the rookie lawyer at the state Clemency Board, from turning her case into a crusade. The trouble is, after Tim Robbins's powerful film, who wants to see "Dead Woman Walking", especially when she limps?

Not that the film's weakness is Stone's fault. The fictitious role of convicted killer Cindy Liggett may not stretch her talents as much as the drunken Las Vegas wife in *Casino*. Yet she does the job honestly enough, and neatly gauges the shifts in attitude from

the hard nut longing for death to the improved character who learns to touch and feel, and to draw the Taj Mahal. But we still end up not caring two figs whether Cindy meets her Maker.

For all its jousting with life and death, *Last Dance* is weirdly perfunctory. Bruce Beresford, the film's wayward director, is still searching for something to top *Driving Miss Daisy*: he gets the scenes shot but does nothing to lift them out of the ordinary. Ron Koslow's script can be sharp enough in peripheral scenes: there is an amusing encounter with a bumptious black killer turned author on *Death Row* ("How they gonna kill a man who's been on the *New York Times* bestseller list?"). But when it matters most, the words turn flat and painful emotions get wrapped in tinsel.

Rob Morrow, most familiar from the television series *Northern Exposure*, does not help as the rookie lawyer trying to make amends for his cushioned life by doing something good. He looks cute but acts bland. You never feel the fire in his belly. Sharon Stone fans will doubtless be curious to see their idol deglamourised; the rest of us can safely pass this last dance by.

Stargazers may get another surprise watching *Nick of Time*. Johnny Depp usually plays characters with long hair, a yen for cross-dressing and scissors for hands. But here he is the ordinary Joe caught in an extraordinary situation. Collar and tie. Meek little specs. Hair that behaves.

Arriving with his daughter at Union Station, Los Angeles, he is yanked aside by Christopher Walken, and given a gun and an impossible choice. Within 80 minutes he must kill the Governor of California, headquartered at a downtown hotel during a re-election campaign. If he fails, his kidnapped daughter will die. And if he shoots too soon, the film will die for what can you fill the time with except suspense, plot twists and endless mutterings over walkie-talkies?

Forty years ago, this would have made a crisp little B-movie. The surprise is that such a modest



He may look a charmer, but Jack Nicholson is a man consumed by bitterness and the desire for revenge in *The Crossing Guard*

venture emerges now under the auspices of John Badham, a director known for overblown nonsense such as *Bird on a Wire*. As underblown nonsense, *Nick of Time* remains a passable time-waster, although our interest might be raised a notch if the script gave us a hint of why California's Governor (Marsha Mason) deserved to die. And we might be even happier if the movie were not playing at the National Film Theatre, which has better things to do than serve as a dumping-ground for American flops soon to appear on video.

But enough of soft-drink cinema, you may say: where can I find the hard stuff? Since this is high summer, you have to look carefully. Up in Scotland, the Drumbule Edinburgh International Festival is now under way, offering everything from Peter Greenaway and music videos to *The Goat Horn*, the hottest Bulgarian film of the 1970s (a full report follows next week). Down in London, after

breaking records at the Riverside Studios, Renoir's wonderful classic *La Règle du Jeu* begins a two-week run at the Screen on the Hill.

Then at the ICA Cinematheque, the most dedicated followers of cinema's muse should find nourishment with Bernard Rudden's *Hunger Artist*, one of the most remarkable British films to emerge last year. Two other British shorts, Alnoor Dewshi's *Anton & Minty* and Nick Gordon-Smith's *Fatima*, complete the ICA's programme.

*Hunger Artist* lasts 45 minutes but Rudden makes every second count as he blends razor-sharp black-and-white imagery with provocative commentary in a story inspired by Kafka. Britain's last fasting artist has been kidnapped by crooks from his cage at the local zoo. A woman journalist pursues the trail through a bleak urban landscape, raising sensitive issues of poverty and greed. Rising up in a summer of so much flaccid image-making, the film's intensity is staggering.

## 'Explosion of genius'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**THE CROSSING GUARD**  
Nicki Thomas, 22: Some nice directorial touches in a film that boasts fine acting and creative use of camera.

Abi Naish, 21: At last, an explosion of genius. Turning Hollywood stereotypes on their heads, this film is incredibly refreshing.

Bea Taylor, 21: One of the most invigorating, cathartic films I have ever seen. This film dances with life.

Derek Griffiths, 18: Good acting and a storyline which is easy to follow.

**LAST DANCE**  
Nicki: Clichéd Hollywood slush that is predictable and tiresome. No Oscar nominations here.

Abi: This fulfils the requirements of every Hollywood movie, while



destroying the real issues in an alarming cascade of tasteless clichés. A great disappointment for a film with great potential.

## Old China reflected in new steel

John Parry views the metal sculptures by Yuyu Yang that currently dominate Chelsea Harbour

His work is inspired and startling. He has exhibited in France, Italy, America, Brazil, Hong Kong and Japan. In recent decades he has been among the most innovative and prolific Chinese sculptors and one of the few to have found an audience in the West. But for whatever reasons, his work has never been to Britain before. So for the Royal Society of British Sculptors to choose the 70-year-old Chinese artist Yuyu Yang as its first International Fellow both acknowledges the sculptor's stature and provides us with an opportunity to see his work here for the first time.

Chelsea Harbour may be an architectural hotchpotch itself, but it provides an effective outdoor setting for some very dramatic and original pieces — a dozen works, three in bronze and nine more startlingly in stainless steel, brilliantly polished and reflecting everything around them.

While Yang admits to the profound influence of European sculptors such as Rodin and Giacometti, his art is rooted firmly in ancient Chinese culture. He calls his current series *Landscape*. It is filled with symbolic images of the dragon and the phoenix, the earth, moon, sun and universe, and especially of Buddha, for he is a devout Buddhist. He describes *Landscape*, developed over 20 years as, "the bridge that connects us. It embodies all my concerns in the form of beauty, which is the most precious gift I can offer. It symbolises my wish for a life of happiness and contentment."

The moment you enter the bleak approach to the Chelsea Harbour complex, the first of Yang's works is a signal that there is great drama afoot. *Mountain Grandeur*, a bronze monolith standing six metres high in lonely



Yuyu Yang and *Solar Permanence*: positioned against the backdrop of the main Chelsea Harbour tower, it shines in the sun or the night lights

splendour, has been described as the ultimate piece of romantic Chinese sculpture. Almost threatening in its sheer bulk, it is also a fine example of how the artist uses his love of nature.

Yang was born in Taiwan but educated in China, Japan and Italy. When he returned to Rome in 1966 he settled in the Taroko National Park region with its spectacular limestone gorge. *Mountain Grandeur*, created ten years later, is a

reflection of his experiences then.

But whatever impact that may have on you, it does not prepare you for the sinuous and elegant charm of a stainless steel work such as *Solar Permanence*. Carefully positioned to have a backdrop of the main Chelsea Harbour tower, it writhes and twists upwards, four metres high, shining in the sun or the night lights. It is a dragon, the symbolic representation of the sun, and the creature's hollow eye

is a neat metaphor for the solar disc.

Yang uses steel to even greater effect with *Lunar Brilliance*. This mirrored disc is an inversion of the traditional Moon gate of the Chinese garden. Instead of the gate being an illusion opening into a different world, this is an illusion reflecting everything around it: boats, water, flats, sky.

The gentle humour becomes whimsy in another work called *Dragon's Song* in which more writhing tape of the shining steel dragon juggles a disc of the sun between its head and tail. Meanwhile, tucked away in a cobbled corner, is *Universe and Life*: a classic Yang piece in which the curves, columns and discs represent a galactic city inhabited not by people but by stars.

Philomena Davidson Davis, of the Sculpture Company (the commercial arm of the RSBS), says: "Western lovers of sculpture will have to take their time to get to know the work. It is sculpture of great integrity. Other Chinese sculptors have found it difficult to break through into the Western market. Yuyu Yang was a natural choice as our first International Fellow, representing the largest living civilisation, its history, growth and culture."

Examples of Yang's works are all over Taiwan: in banks, offices, hotels, golf courses and universities as well as his own Landscape Museum in the capital Taipei. Among Chinese sculptors using steel he is the undisputed pioneer. He started using it as early as 1961. Why?

"I strive for simplicity and purity," he says. "Stainless steel is the perfect material. It captures its surroundings in reflection and incorporates the world into it. Art and the environment merge instead of competing. But what impresses me most about stainless steel is that it has inherited, as it were, the exquisite brightness of china wares of the Sung dynasty."

Yang's sculpture is on display in Chelsea Harbour (London SW10) until November. His pieces are for sale but they do not come cheaply. Prices range from £66,000 to more than £400,000. Perhaps exhibition sponsors such as P&O or the Chinese-language satellite channel CNE will be tempted.

SHARON STONE

Sometimes justice is a crime.

LAST DANCE

FROM FRIDAY AUGUST 16

ODEON HAYMARKET 0171 839 7697

ODEON KENSINGTON 0171 371 3166

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE 0171 722 5905

Chelsea 0181 970 0010

AND AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

## CHOICE 1

Scott Joplin's rags come to Edinburgh in the expert hands of Joshua Rifkin

VENUE: Tonight at the Queen's Hall

## CHOICE 2

Roy Orbison is celebrated in a touring production of *Only the Lonely*

VENUE: This week at the Theatre Royal, Brighton

## THE TIMES ARTS

## NEW VIDEOS

A Frances Hodgson Burnett story is beguilingly adapted for the screen in *A Little Princess*

## NEW CDS

... and the 75th birthday of composer Malcolm Arnold is marked with a fine new disc

## EDINBURGH

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## TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

## LONDON

**BBC PROMS 96.** The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic gives the first of two concerts (7pm). Labor Pater leads the orchestra in modern music from Janacek, Schostakovich and Ligeti. Pura Novotna No. 1 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 2 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 3 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 4 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 5 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 6 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 7 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 8 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 9 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 10 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 11 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 12 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 13 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 14 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 15 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 16 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 17 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 18 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 19 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 20 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 21 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 22 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 23 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 24 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 25 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 26 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 27 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 28 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 29 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 30 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 31 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 32 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 33 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 34 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 35 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 36 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 37 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 38 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 39 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 40 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 41 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 42 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 43 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 44 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 45 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 46 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 47 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 48 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 49 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 50 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 51 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 52 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 53 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 54 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 55 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 56 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 57 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 58 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 59 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 60 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 61 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 62 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 63 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 64 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 65 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 66 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 67 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 68 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 69 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 70 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 71 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 72 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 73 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 74 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 75 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 76 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 77 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 78 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 79 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 80 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 81 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 82 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 83 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 84 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 85 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 86 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 87 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 88 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 89 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 90 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 91 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 92 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 93 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 94 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 95 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 96 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 97 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 98 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 99 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 100 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 101 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 102 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 103 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 104 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 105 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 106 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 107 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 108 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 109 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 110 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 111 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 112 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 113 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 114 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 115 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 116 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 117 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 118 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 119 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 120 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 121 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 122 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 123 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 124 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 125 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 126 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 127 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 128 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 129 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 130 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 131 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 132 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 133 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 134 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 135 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 136 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 137 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 138 (1pm). Pura Novotna No. 139 (2pm). Pura Novotna No. 140 (3pm). Pura Novotna No. 141 (4pm). Pura Novotna No. 142 (5pm). Pura Novotna No. 143 (6pm). Pura Novotna No. 144 (7pm). Pura Novotna No. 145 (8pm). Pura Novotna No. 146 (9pm). Pura Novotna No. 147 (10pm). Pura Novotna No. 148 (11pm). Pura Novotna No. 149 (12pm). Pura Novotna No. 150 (1pm).

## THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre openings in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

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EDINBURGH

The artistry of Miranda Richardson can do little to redeem an inert staging of *Orlando*



EDINBURGH

... but the Mark Morris Dance Group returns with a fine mixed programme

THE TIMES ARTS



PROMS

Esa-Pekka Salonen conducts the Philharmonia as Barry Tuckwell plays his swansong on the horn



TOMORROW

Barely a teenager, the remarkable LeAnn Rimes has taken the country-music world by storm

# Bland backcloth for a gender bender

**THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale on Miranda Richardson in Woolf's *Orlando* at the Lyceum**

What was the physical appearance of the Elsinore that Robert Lepage had created for his one-man play of the same name? Visitors to the Edinburgh Festival will never know, for the show was finally aborted late on Tuesday, victim of someone's inability to transport a working set to the King's Theatre stage. But rumour suggests that Claudius's palace was a sort of sci-fi amusement arcade with computers, holograms, strobe lights and, for all I know, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern flying in from Wittenberg by saucer.

At all events, it was clearly a lot more elaborate than the set which the American avant-garde artist Robert Wilson has designed for his filleted version of Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*. It was also, I suspect, a lot more visually exciting.

There were many times at the Lyceum when I felt that if I shut my eyes and simply listened to Miranda Richardson reciting Woolf's tale of androgyny in high places, I would not be missing anything important. Indeed, there were moments when my eyes were shut for me, because the stage lights were turned off and that cool, musical voice went punctiliously on, describing yet another event in the 400-year-old life of the Elizabethan nobleman who became a woman in the 17th century and was never again sure that gender was a straightforward matter.

Certainly, Wilson's set has



little to do with what Richardson is trying to bring verbally to life. She tells of gaudy balloons and multicoloured flames on the frozen Thames, of exotic horsemen and women with six-foot-high wigs in Constantinople. Yet what we see is a rectangular backcloth which sometimes shrinks in size and changes in hue from white to blue, and the occasional dubiously relevant piece of furniture: a chest of drawers shaped like steps, a table with glass sea horses for supports, a tiny model door that opens and shuts, and what appear to be giant shower-curtains.

Still, Richardson is always on stage, and she looks as good as she sounds. Until 18th-century fashion allows it to flutter a bit, her flame-coloured hair is swept right back, leaving her pale, chiselled face exposed to the cheekbones and beyond.

The effect is severe yet sensual, as if a Botticelli angel had been crossed with one of those stark loners you find in Beckett's late plays. But she is isolated on the stage for more than two hours, and that is a

long time to spend staring at the finest portrait.

This is a portrait which moves, of course. Dressed now in blue doublet and hose, now in billowing bloomers, now in a long pink dress, she walks forward, walks backward, undulates, falls to the floor, rolls around, lies down, crawls on her knees, glides, skitters and more, much more. But her movements are often as little related to what she says as her intonations are to what she feels.

She does not howl when she tells us she howls, or scream when you expect her to scream. And nothing seems to exercise her more than the fact that Queen Victoria wore lots of crinolines to conceal her pregnancy.

Well, all right, there is some reason for that. It tells you why Woolf wrote the novel and, presumably, why Wilson adapted it. Gender determines your social role without necessarily taking your identity along with it. It is not easy for a woman to fight a duel or for a man to dance naked, although Richardson's *Orlando* managed it in the 18th century — or rather, tells us that she did.

And there's the trouble. If we had bought Miranda Richardson the audiobook, we would not have lost all that much. Wilson's *Orlando* is pretentious and visually monotonous — but at least it has happened, which is more than you can say for Lepage and his *Elsinore*.



Miranda Richardson's musical voice and sensual presence were captivating enough for the audience, but American Robert Wilson's minimalist staging of Virginia Woolf's 'tale of androgyny in high places' during the 18th century offered virtually nothing to relieve the visual monotony

## New sweetness and light outshone by old glories

DANCE

Mark Morris Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

and girls, let loose in the garden of love, only to find that rapture can be elusive. The choreography is imbued with lechery, its *petit allegro* as light as whipped cream. But at times the decorative charms of the piece overwhelm its ardour and blunt its edge.

No fear of self-parody in the remarkable *World Power*, which Morris choreographed last year to music by Lou Harrison. The score was inspired by Mark Twain's writings on colonial domination in the Philippine war, and Harri-

son uses a gamelan orchestra the wonderful South Bank Gamelan Players in this instance, with harp and trumpet, while Morris takes his cue from the angularity of Eastern dance styles. The result is

(with the exception, perhaps, of Merce Cunningham), the decision to set 40 minutes of dance to silence might seem arrogant. But in his 1990 piece, *Behemoth*, Morris experimented with the absolute of body language, the ritual of a dancer's physical experience. Indeed, *Behemoth* could be Morris's homage to Cunningham.

Let us forget that Morris himself was born to dance, we have *Ten Suggestions*, his 1981 solo. Set to Tcherepnin's *Bagatelles* (piano, Linda Dowdell) this is a series of ironic autobiographical vignettes. No one else could indulge in such outrageous self-admiration and still make us see the *raison d'être* of dance.

DEBRA CRAINE



Commissioned for the Edinburgh Festival, Mark Morris's *I Don't Want to Love* disappoints

### CONCERTS: Barry Tuckwell signs off as a soloist at the Proms; early music on the South Bank

WITH his horn held high, Barry Tuckwell took his leave of the London concert platform at the Proms on Tuesday. As a horn player, that is: he will doubtless be back before long with baton in hand as he continues his flourishing second career.

Tuckwell made his Proms debut 35 years ago with Mozart's Third Horn Concerto. And it was with this work that he signed off, giving a performance of gently underplayed virtuosity, its slow movement a characteristically warmly breathed aria, its "hunting" finale buoyant with that nonchalant and debonair robustness so typical of Tuckwell's playing.

It was Tuckwell's distinctively lyrical high-register playing, though, which inspired Oliver Knussen in the Horn Concerto dedicated to him and given its London premiere on Tuesday. Knussen delights in telling tales of when Tuckwell lived upstairs in their spare room in his childhood, and made the precocious young Oly a horn out of paper-mâché. It certainly paid dividends, for Knussen's

## Last of a horn of plenty

Philharmonia/  
Salonen  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

deep love for and understanding of the instrument has created a single-movement work of exquisitely imagined ideas, freedom and fluency of expression.

At its British premiere at the Aldeburgh Festival last year, it was the spirit of Mahler which seemed to haunt the tremulous, rustling soundworld of tiny figures flicked from wind to percussion to strings in the opening Intrada and ensuing Fantasia. This was the horn echoing long and far from the world of *Waldensamkeit* — the solitude in the woods of

German nature Romanticism. Hearing the concerto now in the wider spaces of the Albert Hall, I was struck by the powerful, almost Scriabin-esque darkness of the ghostly variations on a ground bass in its slower section.

Knussen has also spoken of Siegfried's Funeral March as a source of "strength" while writing this work: but it is the horn that remains hero.

Esa-Pekka Salonen presented a particularly sensitive and satisfying context for the two horn concertos, prefacing the Knussen with Stravinsky's *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, and following the Mozart with Sibelius's trombone-charged, single-movement Seventh Symphony. This was given a characteristically lean, lucid performance under Salonen's baton, as were Debussy's *Nocturnes*: their nuances luminous as layers of instrumental recession were defined; and their *fêtes* delighting in the score's ever-shifting spaces and dancing distances.

HILARY FINCH

## Grab an early night

Musicians of the  
Globe  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

NOW that the Proms are in full swing at the Albert Hall, August is something of a fallow period for classical music at the South Bank Centre. A week-long early music festival there would seem to be just the job, since many of the concerts in Philip Fickett's programme are of the small-scale character inappropriate to the Albert Hall.

The festival opened at the Queen Elizabeth Hall with a programme of 17th-century English music performed by the Musicians of the Globe. A number of settings of songs by Shakespeare were included in the concert, together with music for broken consort by Thomas Morley and pieces of various kinds based on popular melodies.

Somehow the programme did not hang together as well in performance as it did on paper. The nature of the hall, lacking the intimacy of the Purcell Room, did not help, making it hard for the players, for all their technical accomplishment, to project the sense

of spontaneity that can bring this music alive.

The two singers managed to communicate better with the audience. The young baritone Roderick Williams has a pleasant, light voice and a sharp musical intelligence, especially apparent in his rendition of Robert Jones's lute song *Farewell Dear Love*, and Catherine Bott gave a strongly characterised performance of *Mother Watkin's Ale*, an account all the more commendable as she was suffering from a chest infection. But it was the keyboard-player, Gary Cooper, who quietly stole the show: his account on the virginals of Giles Farnaby's *Loath to Depart* was quite masterly in execution and pacing.

TESS KNIGHTON

## Lords of the word

RADIO

The real gem of the week, however, came from a most unexpected source: Test Match Special (Radio 4 long wave). Each lunchtime programme's producer, Peter Baxter, presents a cricket-related mini-documentary or discussion, and on Monday he put together a splendid item. Nominally it was a tribute to Alan McGilvray, the Australian commentator who died last month, aged 85. But what emerged was a quite extraordinary tale. He began commenting for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation before the Second World War. In those days it

was impossible to broadcast live across continents, so McGilvray did ball-by-ball commentary of the 1938 series against Australia in England — from a Melbourne studio. As each ball was bowled, a man at the English venue would send a cable to Melbourne written in key words. Bradman, square, two would become: Bradman hits the ball through square leg and they take two.

At first the system broke down, because McGilvray was taking only two minutes to describe an over that lasted four minutes. Also, competing radio stations were not going to take

ABC's pioneering work lying down. If McGilvray gave the score as 118 for two, another station would announce that the score was 124 for two. But the rivals would be in a spot if a third batsman was out before the score actually reached 124.

The fascination of McGilvray's account of these early days is twofold. First, the stamina and resourcefulness required to commentate all day on a cricket match taking place 15,000 miles away makes playing in the match sound like a piece of cake. And secondly, his activities demonstrate that sports broadcasting was at the cutting edge of competitiveness long before the arrival of multiple television channels.

PETER BARNARD

### AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

## The Romans revealed

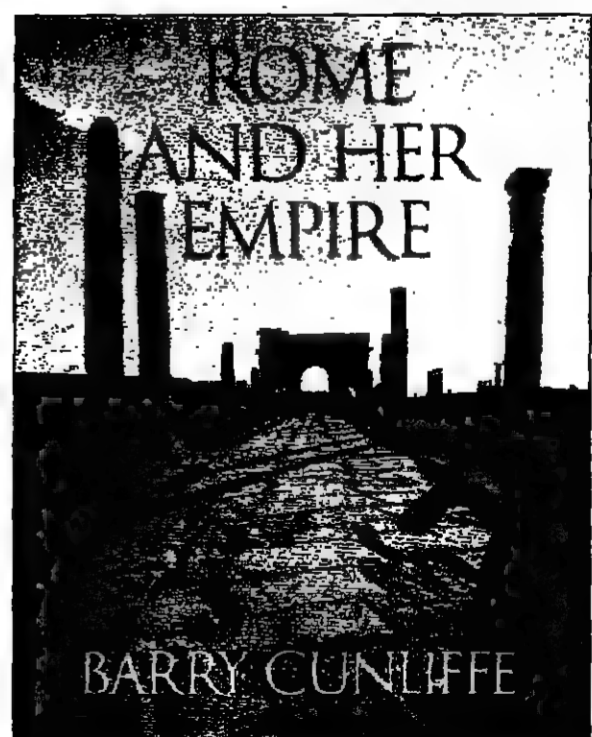
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Jeanette Winterson on a heroine whose image transcends politics

# Still the stormy voice of France

She was born in the village of Domremy on the borders of Lorraine and Champagne. She relieved Orleans against the English siege and stood at the side of the Dauphin as he was crowned Charles VII at Rheims. She was captured, tried by the Inquisition, sold to the English and burnt as a heretic in 1431. In 1920 she was canonised as a saint.

Who was she? Joan of Arc. At once part of history and outside history. Well-known and unknowable, like Sappho or Elizabeth I, she is bound into fact, unbound as the stuff of legend. For more than 500 years her story has served as a draw-well for artists, writers and musicians, including Verdi, Rubens, Ingres, Twain, Sackville-West, Southey,

JOAN OF ARC IN HER OWN WORDS  
Compiled and Edited by  
Willard Trask

Turtlepoint Press, £8.99  
ISBN 1 85393 08 5

THE TRIAL OF JOAN OF ARC

Introduced by Marina Warner

Arthur James, £6.99  
ISBN 0 85305 354 5

Shaw. In the 20th century, film-makers, (De Mille, Rossellini), and film stars (Bergman, Seberg, Lamm), have used Joan as a fluid heroine for modern times.

Joan the Maid, standard-bearer against the English, has become the rallying point for every possible political cause. Right and Left. She has been suffragist, class militant, apologist for Holy War, exemplar of feminine virtue, and a poster pin-up for both the pro and anti-Fascist lobbies during the Second World War. In her excellent introduction to *The Trial of Joan of Arc*, Marina Warner tells us that she was crossing the Tuileries Gardens in Paris in 1990 on Joan's feast day when a priest wearing Joan's badge approached and asked for a donation. It turned out he was recruiting for Jean-Marie Le Pen.

What can we learn from all of this? Joan's durability is not in doubt — but what of her integrity? If the clean-cut lines of her heroism can be so easily stencilled onto so many obsessions, we find ourselves asking the same fundamental question as her tormentors at her trial: was Joan of Arc genuine?

This is the Christ question. Those individuals whose character, teachings or work fire keen debate generation to

De Dame Jehanne la pucelle  
nouvellement venue en France.



De peuret faire les Duchesses  
Cotte les ennemis suisans  
Les roynes et les princesses  
Qu'en penseront les congnoissans

A contemporary guise of Joan the Maid: woodcut from the *Champion des dames*

generation, and long after the context of their endeavours has become obscure, have a peculiar effect on consciousness: anyone who engages, even briefly, with their ideas, is soon forced to questions of authenticity: is this the real thing?

This is uncomfortable. Much as we claim to desire it we live in terror of what is genuine, in case that steady clarity, however muddled in our hands, turns the question back on the questioner. "Is this genuine?" may become "How genuine am I?"

Unlettered Joan faced 70 lawyers and divines in her cross-examination. Her great strength and her greatest weakness was her utter sincerity. Like Gandhi, like Picasso, she believed absolutely in her work. She had no ulterior motive, neither fame nor money, and there were many among her accusers who found her peptic honesty too much to stomach. If Joan was genuine it might follow that they were not. The interests of Church and State could not be called to account by a cross-dressing peasant girl.

The books under review here both use the manuscript sources of the trial and related material, but their aims are so different that they reveal, by comparison, how easy it is to use a text for one's own purposes while claiming it speaks for itself. This began to happen to Joan only 25 years after her death, when she was posthumously pronounced innocent and used as a standard of virtue by the very people who had condemned her.

*The Trial of Joan of Arc*, printed up in an explicitly Christian series of visionary women, fixes Joan as a saint and martyr within a specific tradition. This is appropriate although there is much more to be said.

Marina Warner's subtle introduction traces Joan into other possibilities, and it is

Warner's earlier work, *Joan of Arc: The Image of Female Heroism* (1981) that has done so much to help us to understand both the cult of Joan and the strange nature of the super-myth.

There is no myth without interpretation, and to proclaim Joan of Arc "in her own words" as Willard Trask tries to do, is absolute bosh. The trial manuscripts were not written by Joan, nor were her confessions to her Chaplain, and for us, at least, whatever we read is in translation.

I do not deny that Joan's voice can be heard in the trial documents. What I do not accept is that there is any way for us to hear it unmediated. Trask's supposedly plain edition in fact turns the court account into a first person narrative, which it is not, rearranges the statements according to subject matter, footnotes nothing, and tells us that it has not been practicable to indicate omissions. The interested reader will be much better served by the rather quaint but scholarly 1956 W. S. Scott translation offered in *The Trial of Joan of Arc*. Trask's version, the Maid stripped bare, unarmoured by history or context, might be seen as another incarnation in Joan's endless rebirth, this time as the American soundbite.

ANATOLI RYBAKOV has one advantage over Jeffrey Archer, with whose blockbuster *The Children of the Arbat* trilogy ought to be compared. Reviewers in Britain are much too delicate to treat a novel by a Russian writer who has been exiled to Siberia under Stalin with the hauteur they reserve for their lowbrow, slick and inexplicably successful compatriots.

*Dust and Ashes* is the concluding volume of Rybakov's trilogy, which follows the destinies of a group of childhood friends from the Arbat, Moscow's benign answer to Sloane Square, in the decade before the war with Germany. Upsetting slightly the proposition that the recipe for a Russian bestseller is one part Harold Robbins to four parts Thomas Mann, it includes a single decorously steamy sex scene among the hundreds of pages used to describe the ruminating leaders of mankind, Hitler and Stalin.

Of Stalin's purported ruminations, which are the book's intellectual core, one can say that at their best they are inferior to the benchmark

## Stalin, by Mann out of Robbins

Andrei Navrozov

DUST AND ASHES

By Anatoli Rybakov

Translated by Antonina W. Boshe

Hutchinson, £16.99

ISBN 0 09 17462 9

standard in Vasily Grossman's period novel *Life and Fate*. But where Grossman's Stalin is the magic wand of totalitarianism that focuses the energies of a nation on a goal of world domination, here he is portrayed as a kind of angry pensioner, unfit for power and occupying the Kremlin because of a cosmic error. It was the Russian people that won it, according to Rybakov — and, funnily enough, according to the history myth inculcated into Rybakov's and another hundred million heads by Stalin.

Where Rybakov is quite as formidable as Grossman is in period detail. Here Vadim is trying to provoke his father, a famous doctor, into condemning an ongoing show trial. Vadim said: "I was at the trial at the House of Unions. A

There seems to be an insatiable demand for books about Richard Feynman, from a non-scientific readership fascinated by the fact that a great scientist can also be a human being, and from a scientifically literate readership awed by his achievements, but hoping that somehow they might learn to be like the great man. The heart of this book — the "lost lecture" itself — is strictly for the cognoscenti. But it is accompanied by an historical introduction and a charming reminiscence from David Goodstein, who was a colleague of Feynman's at the California Institute of Technology, which will also appeal to the broader canon of Feynman fans.

The surprise, to anyone who helped to lay the foundations of modern quantum theory, is the subject matter of the lecture. It goes right back to the time of Newton and Kepler, and provides a proof, using only the mathematical techniques accessible to Newton's peers, that the elliptical orbits of the planets around the Sun result from the inverse square law of gravity.

When Newton presented his version of this proof to the Royal Society in the 1680s, it marked a watershed in science, establishing that the Universe at large obeys simple, universal mathematical rules — the same rules apply to the fall of an apple from a tree, or the orbit of a planet around the Sun.

This is why the subject held such fascination for Feynman that he devoted a lecture to it, during the series of lectures he gave the undergraduates at Cal Tech in the

John Gribbin on  
a physicist's  
enduring appeal

FEYNMAN'S LOST LECTURE

The Motion of Planets

Around the Sun

By David L. Goodstein and

Judith R. Goodstein

Cape, £16.99

ISBN 0 224 04304 3

early 1960s. Most of these lectures were gathered together and published as *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*, and are still in print. But the historical aside on planetary orbits didn't fit that template, which is why it was put to one side and "lost" for 30 years.



An engaging lecturer: Feynman (left) with his students at Cal Tech, 1964

Newton's demonstration of the law of ellipses is, say the Goodsteins, "one of the crowning achievements of the human mind, comparable to Beethoven's symphonies, or Shakespeare's plays, or Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel". The snag is that it is not as accessible to the lay person as any of these masterpieces. You do not have to be a musician to enjoy music, a playwright to get a thrill from the Sistine Chapel. But you do have to be at least something of a mathematician to thrill at the achievements of Newton, or Einstein, or Feynman.

The Goodsteins have gone a long way towards making a tough piece of geometry accessible to people who gave up maths as soon as the school system allowed them to. By taking us step by step through the proof, they provide insight into the way scientists think, as well as into the importance of this particular puzzle. It is a brave piece of work, and even braver to market it in a book aimed at the general public.

Without Feynman's name, it would be impossible. To anyone with any interest at all in science, the result is fascinating: whether it really will be intelligible to a wider audience is very hard to say. But I am delighted to see the book being marketed in this way, because the image of Feynman the playboy scientist has tended to obscure the fact that he was a brilliant thinker and one of the finest scientists ever, not just of his generation. This book will do much to restore the balance.

## Vistas peopled by heroes

Glyn Maxwell

WILLIAM MORRIS

Icelandic Journals

With an Introduction by Magnus

Magnusson and a Preface by Fiona

MacCarthy

Mare's Nest, £15.99

ISBN 0 90000 120 0

of the bardic heroes. But soon "it began to be a rather wearisome addition". When the "dismal bellow" finally ends, "lo the tent pulled open again, and there he is, asking us, as if he were yet a new person, if he shall sing a little song to us".

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, CAMBRIDGE



Dante Gabriel Rossetti's drawing of Jane Morris in an Icelandic smock (1872)

The Iceland of 1871 was in many ways indistinguishable from that of 1571 or 1271. Icelanders will tell you that Europe's last thousand years passed in their last hundred. Here is the only place in the world where a time-traveller's millennial leap would discover more alteration in the coastline than in the conversation.

For Morris, as for Auden and MacNeice sixty years on, Iceland was the setting for the Sagas and Eddas. Contemporary figures dot the landscape like tiny technicians long after the show. Though Morris met Jón Sigurðsson, father of the independence movement and one of Iceland's greatest figures, he noted him merely as "a literary man whose editions of Sagas I know very well".

For the Sagas alone people Morris's Iceland. His beautifully simple but detailed accounts of the landscape are heightened by his knowledge of what had happened there. Thoreyarnur is "the place where Grettit stood to challenge Slaying-bardi as he came back from the Heath-Slayings". Midfjörður Water is "where the ballplay in Grettit went on". Morris knows as well as the old farmers that the Sagas are not myths.

As the incident with "Wolf" attests, however, Morris's idealised Sagaland is constantly being assailed by the present. He is not a natural traveller and too earnest a writer to gloss over his many discomforts. When the consoling mist of the Sagas momentarily lifts, he exclaims: "Lord! what littleness and helplessness has taken the place of the old passion and violence that had place here once..."

This nostalgic delusion that humankind once graced, rather than disgraced, the world informs Morris's peculiar behaviour at the farm of Statholt, when his hosts "offered to show me a seam of coal that lay, they said, in the cliffs above Nordurá... I in my hatred of coal was incurious and refused."

What is to the Icelanders of geological interest is to Morris a symbol of what has ruined both the century and country he actually lives in. His happiest moments come when his experience fuses with his literary imagination, riding towards Thingvellir — "most storied place of Iceland" — or hearing a farmer say, as Morris brushes himself off after an ignominious fall from his horse: "The skyld is not quite used to riding then!" Morris would have undergone numberless indignities to be named bard by a man of Iceland.

## Springs eternal

MICHAEL CANNON'S second novel, *A Conspiracy of Hope* (Serpent's Tail, £9.99; ISBN 1 85242 5172) tells the stories of its two principal characters, Jamie and Rachel, from school-leaving to when Jamie is in his forties and Rachel in her thirties. Jamie reacts against his working-class Scottish family and escapes initially to America; Rachel completes a university degree but then sets out travelling across Europe to find herself. Jamie and Rachel first meet on a Greek island; in the final part of the novel, set several years later, Rachel and Jamie meet in London.

Summarised like this this novel may sound lame. But like the author's striking debut, *The Borough*, it isn't. Cannon observes his characters wryly, but always with a profound humanity. A part of the deeper power of the book is precisely that it deals with unexceptional people. In the factory where he works, briefly, Jamie is alienated by his workmates; Rachel is ill at

ease with the repression and hypocrisy of her family. They are both undramatic outcasts from their classes and the novel vividly succeeds in exploring their *undramatic* — but hence widely representative — sense of displacement. The close of the novel is a version of "boy gets girl". But the underlying melancholy with which these lives are viewed is not contradicted by the relative solace of the conclusion. The blurb speaks of a love story "with attitude". That makes the story sound crass, which is one thing that it certainly isn't.

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Jonathan Mirsky assesses a balanced examination of the difficulties that face both China and Hong Kong as 1997 approaches

## Machismo and a moral defence

HONG KONG  
China's Challenge  
By Michael Yahuda  
Routledge, £37.50  
ISBN 0 415 14070 6

In Michael Yahuda's elegantly written book — the best available on Hong Kong on the eve of the handover to China — there is an arresting paragraph: "British policies on the Hong Kong issue have not only been shaped by a sense of moral responsibility for the welfare of the people of Hong Kong, but they have also been fuelled by a sense of guilt... Hong Kong's people are perhaps better qualified... to govern themselves than probably any colony granted independence since the Second World War. Yet they are to be handed back to the authority of a dictatorial government... responsible by its own admissions for the callous deaths of millions of its citizens."

Did someone leak an advance copy of this book to Governor Chris Patten? On July 10, in a speech in London, he made the daringly un-PC statement: "Britain's Empire was a moral force and one for the good." He then recalled that in December 1984, when Mrs Thatcher, as she then was, came to Hong Kong from Peking after she had signed the treaty which returned the colony to

China in 1997, Emily Lau, who was then a ferocious journalist and is now an equally ferocious legislator, asked the Prime Minister if she thought delivering "over five million people into the hands of a communist dictatorship" was "morally defensible."

During the Hong Kong endgame, Mr Patten therefore observed, Britain's policies towards Hong Kong must be "morally defensible."

Nor does China hold every card, the second time remaining before the change in Hong Kong's sovereignty, "the seconds tick for Peking too". Hence the dual meaning of the word "challenge" in the book's title.



Margaret Thatcher and Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang toast Hong Kong's future, December 1984

If China manages a smooth handover, preserving the ex-colony's laws and freedoms, he says, thus ensuring that the basis and practice of its economic success remain intact, the mainland's

economy will continue its rapid modernisation and its international stature (never fully recovered from Tiananmen) will improve.

As Mr Yahuda observes, there are considerable obstacles to this

course. Apart from Hong Kong, 1996-97 will be a fateful year for China. Deng Xiaoping will probably die and the leadership struggle for succession will emerge openly in a party congress. Additionally, he says, re-securing Hong Kong represents for many Chinese an end to 150 years of colonial humiliation. For the new leaders, therefore, wielding China's axe or scalpel in Hong Kong, rather than allowing it the great measure of autonomy guaranteed in the 1984 treaty, would display nationalist machismo.

One of Mr Yahuda's great strengths is his fairness, which over the years has ensured him access to British, Chinese, and Hong Kong officials. He underlines that China and Hong Kong "evolved amid deepening ignorance of important aspects of each others' ways of life". Whitehall, too, is a mystery. Peking, Mr Yahuda points out, cannot believe the British have sacrificed trade

advantages "for a moral cause that at the end of the day may yield Britain precious little". Resonating in the brains of China's negotiators is Deng Xiaoping's precept: "Watch those British lest they grab Hong Kong's capital."

I disagree with Mr Yahuda for laying as much stress as he does on the steadily improving Sino-British relations, which in my view result not from give-and-take, as he suggests, but from British give. Pity the Foreign Office foot soldiers in this diplomatic Dunkirk where there is no VE-Day in prospect.

But he is right to say that "it is impossible to envision circumstances more conducive to undermining confidence in the run-up to the handover" than Peking's installation in Hong Kong of a parallel government and legislature "working on different principles and to different agendas". In 1997, when you are watching this end of moral empire on television, and the transfer of six million people to a regime from which they or their parents fled, keep this book at your side.

## A clockwork genius

Daniel J. Boorstin admires the pluck of the amateur

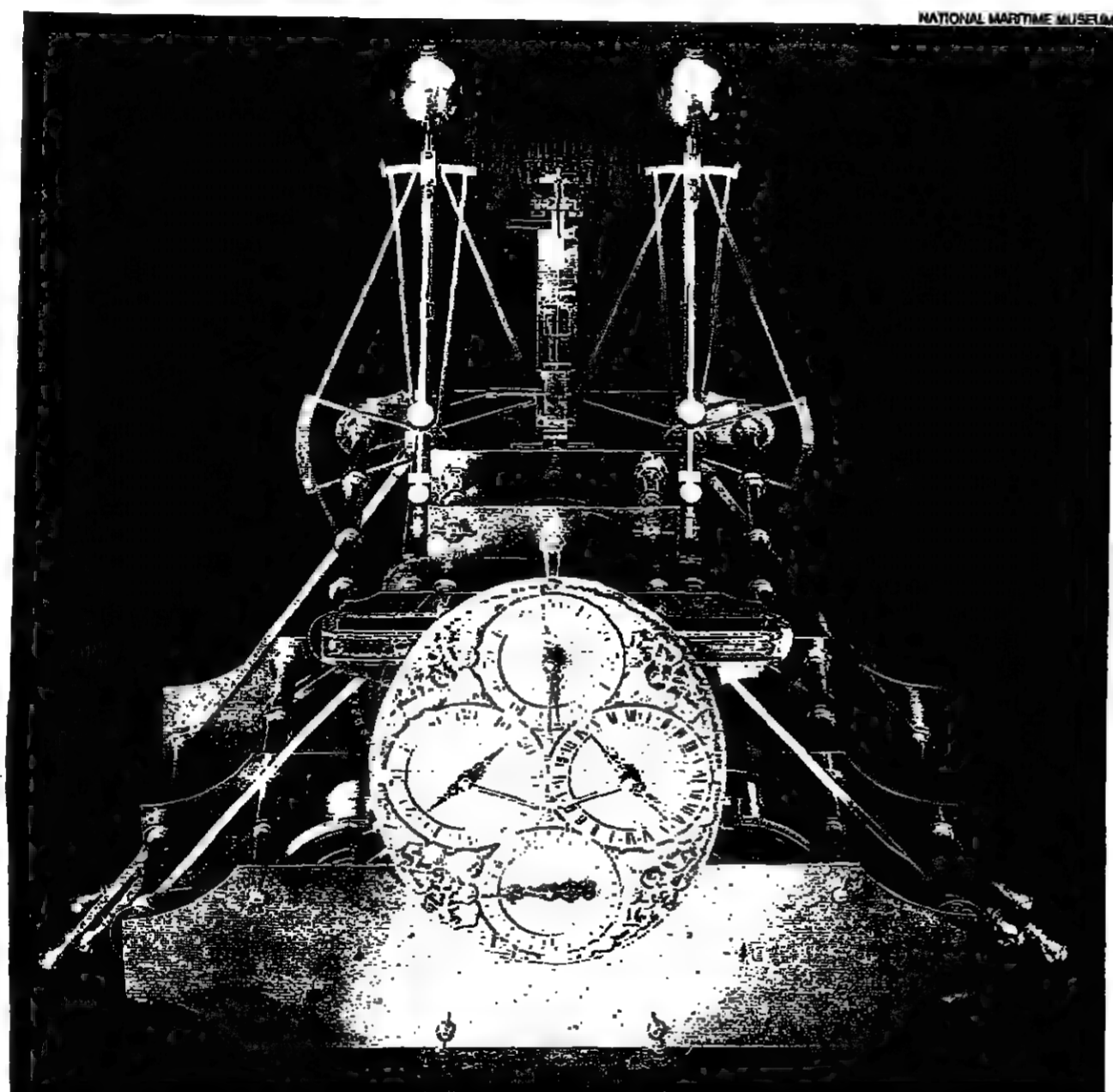
When representatives of 26 nations met at the International Meridian Conference in 1884, they voted to make the Greenwich Meridian the universal reference point for measuring longitude and time. But the French, who of course would not admit that Paris was not the centre of the world, insisted that the base meridian should instead run through their Paris Observatory, two degrees east of Greenwich. Still the world (and eventually the French) acquiesced to Greenwich Mean Time, which now extends into outer space.

We seem to have forgotten that time is longitude and longitude is time. For the time-zones of the world are measured in hours (and degrees of longitude) east and west of Greenwich. Dava Sobel's graceful and lively little book will help us see how Greenwich attained its universal eminence. It also puts the spotlight on a neglected hero in the saga of the British Empire. Few others did as much as the lonely, inventive John Harrison (1693-1776) to help the British find their bearings on the sea. Other notables in this story include Sir Isaac Newton, Captain James Cook, and Captain William Bligh of the *Bounty*.

The British obsession with "the longitude problem" was inspired by a catastrophe on October 22, 1707, when four homebound British warships ran aground at the Isles of Scilly with a loss of some 2,000 men. The captain had no reliable way of finding his whereabouts and the islands had loomed unexpectedly.

Latitude — bearings north and south of the Equator, marked by the northern and southern boundaries of the sun's apparent motion over the year — had posed a manageable problem. But longitude, the east-west marker, was far more difficult to distinguish at sea. So the British Parliament, in a famous Longitude Act of 1714, offered a reward of £20,000 for a "Practicable and Useful" means of determining longitude at sea. The prize was to be awarded by a Board of Longitude, which offered an attractive stage for personal posturing, bureaucratic delay, academic envy, and professional malice. Harrison would suffer all these before he received his reward.

The grand rivalry was between the astronomical method



Finding time and place: Harrison's first submission for the longitude prize, "H1", which nearly won the bounty in 1736

based on measurement of lunar distances and moon-to-star distances) and the chronometric method using some kind of clock. The former enjoyed the enthusiasm of the Board's famous scientists and astronomers royal, who had a vested interest in its technicality. But it was difficult on a rolling ship, required much auxiliary data and mathematical expertise and might take hours to calculate.

In a melodramatic contrast to the members of the Board, John Harrison had no formal education and had never even been apprenticed to a watchmaker, but had the passion and imagination of the amateur. The word "chronometer" first came into English usage about 1714 to describe a timekeeper designed for precision at sea.

Apart from the obvious problems of the pitch and roll of a ship, an effective timekeeper at sea had to remain accurate despite wide variations of temperature which made the parts expand and contract and so affected their rate of movement. Harrison

had already solved this problem for pendulum clocks by his clever "gridiron" design. When the pendulums in clocks expanded with the heat they grew longer and ticked more slowly. Knowing that every metal expands at its own characteristic rate, he ingeniously combined long and short strips of two metals — brass and steel — in one pendulum. The strips counteracted each other's changes as temperature varied, and so the pendulum kept a constant length.

A chronometer on a rolling ship could not depend on a moving pendulum but had to be activated and controlled by springs. For this purpose Harrison devised his own "grasshopper" escapement. Lubrication was also a problem for a timekeeper in widely varying temperatures: machines needed oil in their gears, but lubricants got thicker or thinner with changes in temperature during a voyage, and so made the clock run slower or faster.

Freezing temperatures might stop the clock altogether. Harrison, the master carpenter, devised a clock that never needed lubrication. The parts that normally needed lubrication he carved of lignum vitae, a tropical hardwood that exudes its own grease.

In his early tower clock in Brooklands Park (built in 1722 and still running today) Harrison had made the gears from oak. But he used oak only from fast-growing trees with a wide grain that was especially strong because of the high percentage of new wood.

Harrison's struggle for the Longitude Prize is a parable of the inspired amateur. Acute in self-criticism, he never ceased to see better ways of doing the job. Which makes Dava Sobel's well-crafted story a history not of one invention, but of a series.

In 1735, William Hogarth, the artist who had begun life as an engraver of watchcases, in his popular *Rake's Progress* showed a "longitude lunatic"

sketching his own wild solution on the walls of Bedlam Asylum. By the time of Harrison's death, the chronometer for finding longitude was standard equipment for captains of the East India Company. In 1791, when the Company issued new logbooks, the printed pages showed a special column for "Longitude by Chronometer".

It was John Harrison, more than anyone else, who had perfected the device that would give these empire-builders their bearings. He had led the way for the chronometer as the only "Practicable and Useful" solution to the longitude problem. In a nation built on a seaborne empire he had created a new industry of marine timekeeping which made Greenwich Mean Time in the late 20th century still an appropriate symbol of British conquest of the oceans. And we can thank Dava Sobel for rescuing this suspense-tale of technology and seafaring for all us armchair discoverers.

Daniel J. Boorstin is Librarian of Congress Emeritus.

LONGITUDE  
By Dava Sobel  
Fourth Estate, £12  
ISBN 1 85170 302 4

## Rituals of bureaucratic gods

Peter Jones

ATHENIAN  
RELIGION  
A History

By Robert Parker  
Clarendon Press, £40  
ISBN 0 19 314904 4

(say) Christianity. Bibles, creeds and concepts like love and sin play no part. Far from demanding particular behaviour or belief, Greek gods primarily required acknowledgement, in some ritual form. Eristis did not solve tricky theological problems or

provide moral exhortation but ensured correct procedure. The required effort of imagination is considerable. Religion is like language: self-explanatory to speakers, an illogical, babel nonsense to non-speakers.

Parker's title is carefully chosen. He points out that scholars tend to study Greek religion as a panhellenic phenomenon, and admits that, for example, the Greeks' strong sense of common cultural identity gives them grounds. Nevertheless, he argues that our evidence for Athenian religious practice is sufficient to permit intensive study of

Athens alone, and here sets out to show how religion intersects with Athenian history and society from the 8th to 3rd centuries BC.

The notorious execution of Socrates in 399 BC for "impiety" (not believing in the city's gods, introducing new gods and corrupting the young) illustrates Parker's methods well.

He points out that "corruption of the young" was the main charge that the various surviving "defences of Socrates" tried to counteract, and uses the comic poet Aristophanes' parody *Clouds* to show that (however wrongly) Socrates

was commonly perceived as a sophist and atheist. He goes on to argue that, especially in the late 5th century BC (possibly as a result of Athens' political demise), the finger was increasingly pointed at the corrupting influence of these thinkers. The charges relating to gods simply added to the gravity of the offence, since in democratic Athens only the people could authorise their introduction.

Parker's connections range far and wide. He argues, for example, that the main function of the great calendar of sacrifices drawn up by Solon

in the 6th century BC was to determine how much state money should be spent on what gods, and when (religion and economics); that the aristocratic rich used religious show to demonstrate their status (religion and power); and that the invention of democracy led to the elevation of Athens itself as an object of worship second only to the gods, and to that extent, religion was therefore not so much a mechanism for controlling the world as for celebrating Athenian achievements within it (religion and state).

It all bodes exceedingly well for ancient history at Oxford.

Dr Peter Jones helps run Friends of Classics at Newcastle University.

## Armed with faith and muskets

fascination with the Maori gods and system of belief. She reveals Hongi Hika's determination to befriend the English — and to acquire from them the muskets that will allow

him to conquer rival tribes and exact revenge for his brothers' deaths.

Stockwell, meanwhile, provides the novel's philosophical underpinnings. An apprenticed printer whose crime was to possess Thomas Paine's seditious treatise *The Rights of Man*, he re-examines his Enlightenment ideals of equality and atheism in the light of his experiences on the transport ships and among the Maori. Alive with historical detail and drama, *Tapu* invites us to re-examine our own definitions of civilisation. It is a remarkably successful first novel.

Frances Stead Sellers is Deputy Editor of *Civilization*, the Washington-based magazine of the Library of Congress.

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Barbarism in the eye of the beholder: Maori chief, 1880s

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## Two rules of reinsurance contracts

**Hill and Others v Mercantile and General Reinsurance Co plc**

**Berry and Others v Same**

Before Lord Maccay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, Lord Goff of Chieveley, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches July 24]

There were only two rules, first, that the reinsurer was not liable unless the loss fell within the policy reinsured and the cover created by the reinsurer was free to agree on ways of proving that the requirements were satisfied.

Since under the contracts between the parties there was, such as, whether there was a loss settlement or compromise settlement and since there might be arguable defenses, there was an issue or question which ought to be tried that was sufficient to exclude the possibility of summary judgment under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The House of Lords so held allowing appeals by the defendants, Mercantile and General Reinsurance Co plc ("M & G"), from a decision dated July 7, 1994 of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Wainwright).

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**Corporation (KAC), in August 1990, in consequence of Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and taking over those aircraft.**

**The syndicates took out sum-**

**monies under Order 14 of the Rules of the Supreme Court for summary judgments. The judge decided that the cases were not proper for summary judgments and gave M & G unconditional leave to defend.**

**Mr V. V. Vender, QC and Mr George Leggett for M & G; Mr Jonathan Sumption, QC and Mr Andrew Poplewell for the syndicates.**

**LORD MUSTILL said that the issues arose on assumed facts for summary judgments. Four sets of contracts were involved.**

**First, there was a contract between KAC and a number of Kuwaiti insurance companies whereby the latter insured KAC against loss or damage to 15 aircraft for the period between July 1, 1990 and June 30, 1991 caused by, inter alia, "(a) War, invasion, acts of foreign enemies, hostilities (whether war be declared or not) ... (c) Confiscation, nationalisation, seizure, restraint, detention, appropriation, requisition for title or use by or under the order of any government ..."**

**The aircraft were insured on agreed values totalling US \$642 million. The policy also provided that "the maximum sum insured in respect of ground risks is US \$300 million any one occurrence ..."**

**The second contract was a policy whereby syndicates or companies in the London market, the primary reinsurers, reinsured the Kuwaiti insurers in respect of the direct insurances on terms said to be identical to those of the direct insurance. The contract gave the primary reinsurers complete control over negotiations and settlement of losses.**

**Next, there were chains of excess of loss reinsurances, the intermediate reinsurances, which started with the primary reinsurers and came to rest, eventually after many**

**circles through the spiral, with certain syndicates or companies, the inward reinsured.**

**The penultimate set of contracts comprised further excess of loss reinsurances made between the inward reinsured and certain syndicates represented in the current litigation by the individual respondents to the two combined appeals now before the House, the inward contract.**

**That contract included the following term, described as "settlements clause ... in respect of aviation business": "All loss settlements by the reassured including compromise settlements and the establishment of funds for the settlement of losses shall be binding upon the reinsurers, providing such settlements are within the terms and conditions of the original policies and/or contracts ... and within the terms and conditions of this reinsurance."**

**Finally, there were the "outward contracts". They were excess of loss policies, made by the syndicates with various companies and syndicates, including M & G, in respect of the risks reinsured under the inward policies. It was under those contracts that the present dispute had arisen. It was agreed that they all incorporated the settlements clause.**

**The events which were said to found claims under the policies along the chain were that on August 2, 1990 Iraqi invading forces seized control of the 15 aircraft on the ground at Kuwait airport. Within the following few days, the aircraft were flown to Iraq. Subsequently, they suffered damage. Those events took place during the cover of the direct contracts and of all the reinsurances.**

**On any view of the facts, the losses occurred while the aircraft were on-risk under the direct contracts. Further, on the basis that the origin of the ultimate destruction was the invasion of Kuwait and the removal of the aircraft it would be arguable that the whole matter constituted "any**

**one occurrence" for the purposes of the aggregate limit of the direct contract insurance or reinsurance.**

**As to the outward contracts, if the aircraft should be regarded as lost when they were seized in Kuwait and soon afterwards taken away to Iraq the losses happened while the aircraft were on-risk under the outward contracts and it would be arguable that the losses were "arising from any one event", within joint excess loss clauses, for the purpose of calculating the net loss.**

**The syndicates were not satisfied with the way the claims were being handled. They issued writs under the outward contracts seeking the appropriate proportions of the full insured value of the relevant aircraft and certain declarations against M & G.**

**There were only two rules, both obvious. First, that the reinsurer could not be held liable unless the loss fell within the cover of the policy reinsured and within the cover created by the reinsurer.**

**Second, that the parties were free to agree on ways of proving that the requirements were satisfied.**

**Beyond that, all the problems came from the efforts of those in the market to strike a workable balance between conflicting practical demands and then to express the balance in words.**

**The crucial words in the settlements clause were "within the terms and conditions" of the original policies and of the reinsurance. Those words drew a distinction between the facts which generated claims under the two contracts, and the legal extent of the respective covers.**

**The purpose of the distinction was to ensure that the reinsurer's original assessment and rating of the loss assumed were not falsified by a settlement which, even if soundly based on the facts, transferred into the inward or outward policies, or both, risks which properly lay outside them.**

**That restriction was perhaps more clearly visualised in relation to the second proviso. Here, the reinsurers were entitled to say that they rated the policy by reference to its chronological and geographical extent, to the types of casualty insured, to the boundaries of the insured layer, the mode of calculating the loss, and so forth. Those variables, defined by the terms of the policy, founded the bargain between reinsurers and reinsured on the basis of which the premium and other terms were set.**

**The purpose of the second proviso was to keep that foundation intact and it would be undermined if an honest attempt by those further down the chain to ascertain the legal consequences of the facts could impose on the reinsurers responsibilities beyond those expressed in the policies.**

**So also with the first proviso. The reinsurers undertook to protect the reinsured against risks which they had written, not risks which they had not written.**

**To allow even an honest and conscientious appraisal of the legal implications of the facts embodied in an agreement between the parties down the chain to impose on the reinsurers risks beyond those which they had undertaken and which the reinsured had undertaken would effectively rewrite the outward contract. It was that which the provisos were designed to forestall.**

**That opinion, combined with the existence of arguable defenses, was sufficient to exclude the possibility of summary judgment, based on any settlements which could be alleged to have been made. Quite apart from that there was a question whether there was a "loss event" ... or compromise settlement" within the settlement clause.**

**Under the clause there was an issue or question in dispute which ought to be tried.**

**The Lord Chancellor, Lord Goff, Lord Slynn and Lord Hoffmann agreed.**

**Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert; Clyde & Co; Manches & Co.**

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**Union's opposition was not industrial action**

**Knowles and Another v Fire Brigades Union**

Before Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Phillips

[Judgment July 31]

The Fire Brigades Union's opposition to full-time fire fighters being additionally employed on retained fire fighting contracts did not constitute other industrial action within the meaning of section 65(2)(a) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

Therefore full-time employees who were disciplined by the union for entering into retained contracts had not been unjustifiably disciplined for failing to participate in or support a strike or other industrial action.

The Court of Appeal so held when unanimously dismissing an appeal by Michael Knowles and David Johnson, two full-time fire fighters employed by Shropshire County Council, from a decision dated December 8, 1995 of the Employment Appeal Tribunal overruling a decision of an industrial tribunal sitting in South London on October 20, 1993 that the Fire Brigades Union's opposition constituted other industrial action.

Mr Jeremy McMullen, QC and Mr Jonathan Gavanagh for the employees; Mrs Laura QC and Mr Nicholas Randall for the union.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL said that retained fire fighters were not in full-time employment but were paid a fee each year to be ready and on standby to be called out for fires. They received an extra fee for

each fire to which they were summoned.

For about 15 years from 1961 a system was in force whereby full-time fire fighters were eligible to undertake duties similar to those of retained fire fighters. That system was not favoured by the union and by 1977 it was decided to phase it out. In 1986, however, due to difficulties with recruitment of retained fire fighters, the employees proposed to reintroduce full-time retained duties.

That was unanimously rejected by the union at its annual conference and members were informed. The union recommended the rejection of retained contracts for full-time fire fighters and a campaign to eradicate the whole time-retained duty system.

On April 15, 1992 both appellants enrolled as retained fire fighters. In October 1992 the union's disciplinary committee resolved that the appellants should be expelled. They commenced the present proceedings.

His Lordship said that industrial action could take many forms, but in the absence of any statutory definition, any attempt at a paraphrase was unlikely to be useful.

The question of what was industrial action was a mixed question of fact and law. In large measure it was a question of fact but the facts had to be judged in the context of the 1992 Act which plainly contemplated that industrial action was a serious step.

It was necessary to look at all the circumstances which included the contracts of employment of the employees and whether any breach of or departure from the

terms of the contract were involved, the effect on the employer of what was done or omitted and the object which the union or the employees sought to achieve.

In the present case the relevant factors were:

1 At the date the appellants were expelled from the union the policy had been in force for over 18 months. The object to be achieved by the union's policy was to prevent a unilateral departure from the terms which had been agreed in 1977.

2 The policy did not require full-time workers to break or depart from the terms of their existing contracts. It merely required fire fighters not to undertake additional new contracts.

3 There was no evidence to suggest that either the county council or the union contemplated that the pressure exerted by the union required the support of a ballot.

4 It was reasonable to assume that some of the 45 other fire fighters had refused offers of retained contracts. But their compliance with the union's policy did not on the facts of the case amount to a declaration that the union and its members had crossed the threshold into taking industrial action within the meaning of section 65.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal was justified in concluding that the industrial tribunal had misdirected itself in treating pressure plus inhibition resulting from pressure as a sufficient test of industrial action.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT and LORD JUSTICE PHILLIPS agreed.

Solicitors: Free Representation Unit; Robin Thompson & Partners.

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**School should consider effect on victim**

**Regina v Camden London Borough Council, Ex parte H (a Minor)**

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment July 30]

In considering whether to reinstate two pupils permanently excluded from school by their headteacher for their involvement in the shooting of another pupil with a pellet gun, the school governors and local education authority representative acted unlawfully in failing properly to investigate the incident and in failing properly to investigate the effect on the victim of the excluded pupils' return.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment, allowing H's appeal, by his father and next friend, against Mr Justice Tucker's decision of May 14, 1995, and remitting for rehearing the decision of Camden London Borough Council, by their local education authority representative, and school governors on April 23 not permanently to exclude two pupils, A and B, from the school.

Mr Rabinder Singh for H; Ms Sarah Forster for the local education authority and governors; Mr Anthony Bradley for A and B.

LORD JUSTICE KENNEDY said that H, a child with special needs, suffered from impaired hearing which resulted in bullying at a previous school and caused emotional vulnerability. He moved to his current school in December 1995 and settled well.

In March 1996 while playing at school he was hit behind his ear by a pellet fired from a BB Air Sport gun by A. The weapon, of a type which could be bought in a toy shop, looked like a firearm. It had been brought into school the previous day by B. H lost consciousness for a short time and went to hospital with his father where he was kept under observation for four hours.

The headteacher excluded A and B from the school for 12 days and subsequently decided to make that exclusion permanent. At a subsequent governors' meeting on April 23, to which A's and B's but not H's parents were invited, the governors and representative of the local education authority decided to reinstate A and B.

The exculpatory accounts of A and B were carefully considered, the boys were questioned and A was given an opportunity to renege, but potentially incriminating accounts were not investigated in the same way. Nor was any attempt made to find out what pupils said in the police investigations.

The critical effect of that lack of balance was that the governors were satisfied that the incident



**QUESTRIANISM:** Derby meeting (Aintree).

**OLF:** Weekender women's British Open (Loburn).

**SPEEDWAY:** Premier League: Ipswich v Wolverhampton (7.30). Midlands: Ipswich v Wolverhampton (7.30).

# RACING: CURRAGH TRAINER AIMS TO EXTEND RECORD OF INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

## Weld excels as man of the world

BY OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT

SAFE in the knowledge that another Irish trainer's title is already all but assured, Dermot Weld's horizons for the remainder of the season are expanding far beyond his Curragh base.

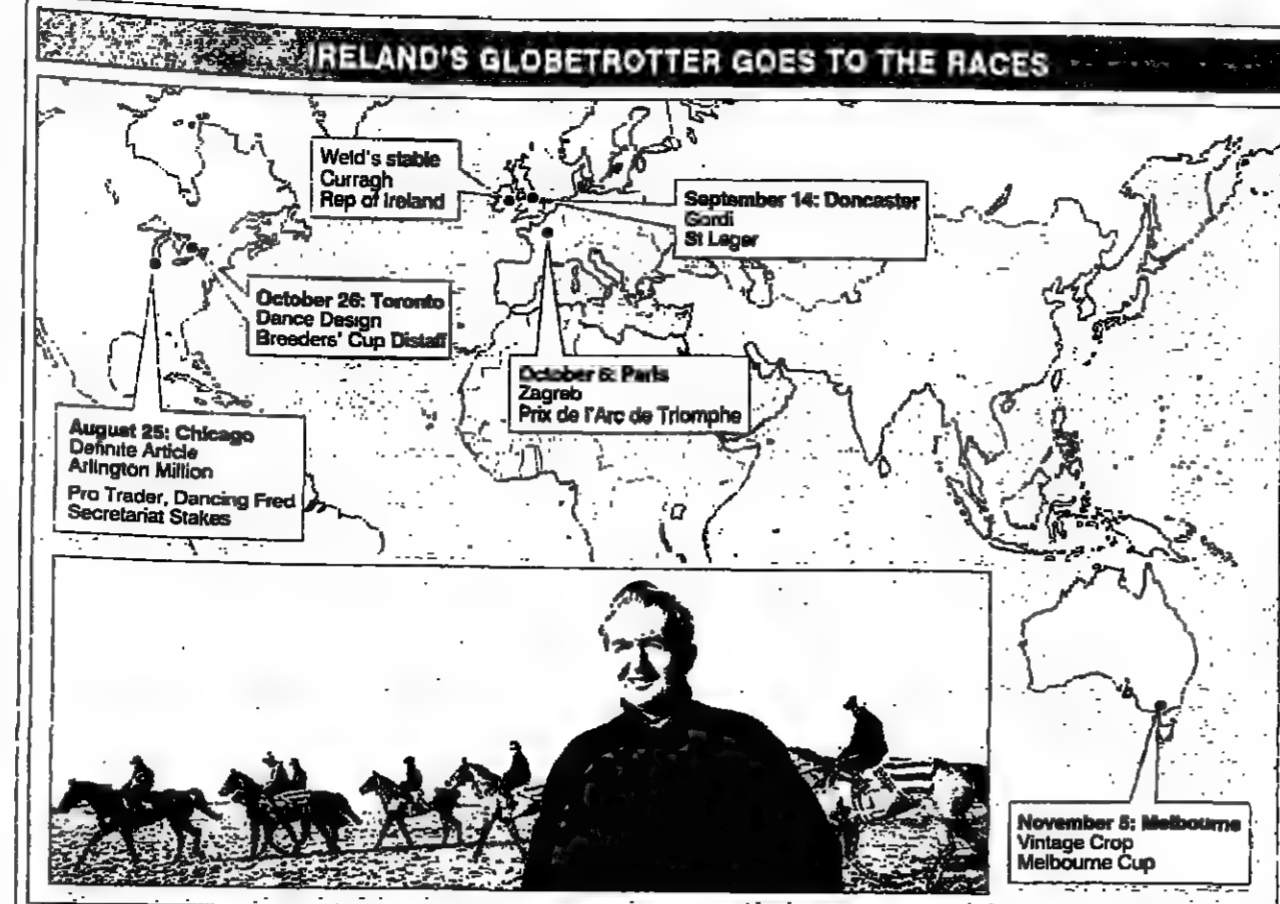
Zagreb's surprising but stunning Budweiser Irish Derby victory in June completed Weld's Irish classic collection, but, with possibly the strongest team of horses he has had, Weld is looking abroad. Responsible for Go And Go's Belmont Stakes win in 1990 and Vintage Crop's Melbourne Cup triumph three years later, he has yet more foreign targets in mind.

On Sunday week, last year's Irish Derby runner-up, Definite Article, will face the starter in the Arlington Million in Chicago. On the same card, Pro Trader and Dancing Fred go for the grade one Secretariat Stakes. They are simply the early representatives of an ambitious autumn agenda.

Zagreb has the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Paris as his objective; the Irish Oaks winner, Dance Design, has sound prospects in the Breeders' Cup Distaff at Woodbine, Toronto; the Queen's Vase winner, Gordi, is being aimed at the St Leger at Doncaster; and the evergreen Vintage Crop is set to run in the Melbourne Cup for the fourth time.

Weld's impressive record of forays abroad mean each of his runners will be feared, whatever the opposition. In the light of the poor record of British-trained horses in the Breeders' and Melbourne cups, how does the 48-year-old Irishman get the elusive balance of travel and performance so consistently right? What does he do differently?

"That's for me to know," he said, but images of mystical Irish wizardry are off the



IRELAND'S GLOBETROTTER GOES TO THE RACES

mark. Concentrating on the seemingly minute details is what counts. "There's nothing magical, no magic formula, no must do or don'ts," he said. "I tend to have the horses' preparations done before we go abroad, so we're not depending on getting a horse ready when we arrive. It's about keeping the horse fresh, mentally fresh."

The results speak for themselves, and not only the high-profile victories. Three years ago, Osman, the winner of a humble Galway maiden, finished fourth in the Secretariat at Arlington, in front of Colonel Collins, placed in three European classics. Weld considers Pro Trader and Dancing Fred to be better than Osman.

Both are superior and that gives me hope," he said. "Definite Article is in good form and, depending how he runs in the Million, may stay in America for the Turf Classic at Belmont two weeks later."

Plans are also being kept fluid regarding preparation races for the other stable stars, but Weld is excited by Zagreb's potential. "He may not have a prep for the Arc, but whatever happens about this year's Arc I think he could be awesome as a four-year-old."

Zagreb has outstanding potential and is maturing well. He is an easy horse to get fit so I'm not worried about a

warm-up race for the Arc. Dance Design may go in the Irish Champion Stakes, but the Breeders' Cup Distaff over nine furlongs in Toronto is a definite end-of-year target. With the pace they go in America a horse may stay well and she proved that in the Oaks.

"Gordi has had a slight hold-up and may go straight for the St Leger. I can see him running well in that race. We see him as the ideal replacement for Vintage Crop and he could go all the way."

The schedule for Vintage Crop, first, seventh and third in the last three renewals of the Melbourne Cup, will become clearer next month. "It's

beyond belief to be running at that age, but don't tell that to a horse like Vintage Crop," Weld said. "He'll run in the Irish Leger again and that will tell us whether or not to go to Melbourne."

From the Curragh to Australia, one end of the globe to another, Vintage Crop has made the Melbourne Cup an option for European stayers, a preposterous idea until only recently. "We tend to be parochial and want to be best in our own country, but the racing world is getting much smaller," Weld added. Before the season is over Weld may have made it even smaller.

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## BEVERLEY

THUNDERER  
2.00 Broodmare, 2.30 Sleepless, 3.00 Tertium, 3.30 Euro Seismic, 4.00 Saunders When, 4.30 Poly Moon.  
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings:  
3.30 EURO SEISMIC.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F, HIGH BEST SIS

2.00 TOLL GAVEL SELLING HANDICAP (€3,014, 2m 35yd) (9 runners)

- 1 (7) 312 BROODMARE 25 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 2 (1) 0011 FALCONER 11 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 3 (4) 0000 FLORISSANT 21 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 4 (1) 0000 EVER FORTH 9 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 5 (1) 0000 GREY SONNET 7 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 6 (1) 0000 HILLSIDE 11 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 7 (1) 0000 CHAPLAIN 11 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 8 (1) 0000 NO MORE HUSSE 12 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 9 (1) 0000 2-1 Pigeon 5-11 (€3,014) 2m 35yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil

2.30 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND WESTWOOD MAIDEN STAKES (€2,000, 1m 11yd) (9 runners)

- 1 (1) 0000 BANICA NERA 1 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 2 (1) 0000 CAUTION 1 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 3 (1) 0000 DYNAMIC WATERMILL 6 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 4 (1) 0000 DYNAMIC WATERMILL 6 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 5 (1) 0000 DYNAMIC WATERMILL 6 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 6 (1) 0000 DYNAMIC WATERMILL 6 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 7 (1) 0000 DYNAMIC WATERMILL 6 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 8 (1) 0000 DYNAMIC WATERMILL 6 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 9 (1) 0000 DYNAMIC WATERMILL 6 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil

3.00 RAPID LAD HANDICAP (€5,540, 1m 11yd) (10 runners)

- 1 (1) 0000 TERTIUM 5 (€5,540) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 2 (1) 0000 TERTIUM 5 (€5,540) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 3 (1) 0000 TERTIUM 5 (€5,540) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 4 (1) 0000 TERTIUM 5 (€5,540) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 5 (1) 0000 TERTIUM 5 (€5,540) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
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- 9 (1) 0000 TERTIUM 5 (€5,540) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 10 (1) 0000 TERTIUM 5 (€5,540) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil

3.30 EAST RIDING YEMMURY CHALLENGE TROPHY HANDICAP (Amateurs: €3,254, 7f) (7 runners)

- 1 (1) 0000 FAME AGAIN 13 (€3,254) 7f 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 2 (1) 0000 FAME AGAIN 13 (€3,254) 7f 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 3 (1) 0000 FAME AGAIN 13 (€3,254) 7f 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 4 (1) 0000 FAME AGAIN 13 (€3,254) 7f 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 5 (1) 0000 FAME AGAIN 13 (€3,254) 7f 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 6 (1) 0000 FAME AGAIN 13 (€3,254) 7f 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 7 (1) 0000 FAME AGAIN 13 (€3,254) 7f 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil

4.00 HOLLANDER PONY CLUB CLAIMING STAKES (€2,000, 1m 11yd) (13 runners)

- 1 (1) 0000 OHIO ROYAL 10 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 2 (1) 0000 OHIO ROYAL 10 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 3 (1) 0000 OHIO ROYAL 10 (€2,000) 1m 11yd 10-10-0 J. C. O'Neil
- 4 (1) 0000 OHIO ROYAL 10 (€2,

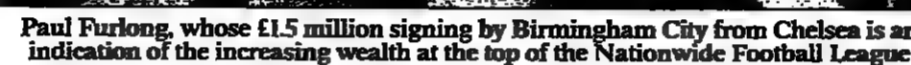


## Gascoigne unlikely to be risked in Hoddle's first game

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

"It will go ahead as planned," a Uefa spokeswoman said yesterday. "We are satisfied that the security arrangements are such that, given all the information we had, the venue did not need to be switched."

Rangers, who lead 3-1 from the first leg, will travel to Austria on Monday for a stop-over before flying on to southern Russia.



For the Football League, the argument is now, "That money is essential to the existence of many clubs." Andy Williamson, the Football League assistant secretary, said yesterday.

With wage bills in the Football League increasing overall by 63 per cent in the

It would be easier, though, to have more sympathy with the Football League arguments if its own first division had not proved as ready to

The threat worked, with the first division taking most of the pot of £35 million from television, sponsorship and pools money. Its clubs will receive approaching £1 million each, which may pale beside the money available to Pre-

With the Football League preparing to go to court if a strike is called, things could get nasty. "Our advice is that, under present legislation, it would be illegal," Williamson said. He will hope that the advice is better than it was when the League tried to stop the Football Association from luring its clubs away to the Premier League.

**Barnsley**  
Player-manager: Danny Wilson (reappointed June 1994).  
IN: M Appleby (Darlington, £200,000), P Hughes (Sheff Wed, £15,000).  
OUT: A Payton (Huddersfield, £250,000), O Ardesham (Sheff Wed, £15,000), R Brown (Sheff Wed, £15,000), P Gillingham (Scarborough, free), S Cockle (Scarborough, loan), C Bishop (Warrington, £200,000), L Butler (Wigan, free).  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Birmingham City**  
Manager: Trevor Francis (May 1995).  
IN: S Bruce (Aston Utd, free), B Horne (Everton, £250,000), G Abbott (Everton, £400,000), P Furlong (Leeds, £15,000), N News (Blackburn, £775,000).  
OUT: P Peachesolid (West Bromwich, £500,000), R Forsyth (Gillingham, £200,000), S Black (Doncaster, free), P Chaffin (Lincoln, non-contract).  
Championship odds: 7-1.

**Bolton Wanderers**  
Manager: Colin Todd (Nov 1994).  
IN: S Bruce (Aston Utd, free), P Furlong (Leeds, £15,000), N News (Blackburn, £775,000).  
OUT: A Payton (Huddersfield, £250,000), O Ardesham (Sheff Wed, £15,000), R Brown (Sheff Wed, £15,000), P Gillingham (Scarborough, free), S Cockle (Scarborough, loan), C Bishop (Warrington, £200,000), L Butler (Wigan, free).  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Bradford City**  
Manager: Chris Jones (Nov 1995).  
IN: E Riegler (Hibernian, undisclosed), C Scott (Rangers, free), M Saeed (NAC, free), G Cowie (NAC, free), J Wilson (Torquay, free).  
OUT: N Tolson (York, undisclosed).  
Championship odds: 33-1.

**Charlton Athletic**  
Manager: Alan Curtisley (July 1991).  
IN: A Barnes (Sheff Wed, £185,000), L Misatichenko (Rangers, free), L O'Neil (G. Nelson, Torquay, free), L O'Neil (G. Nelson, Torquay, free), L O'Neil (G. Nelson, Torquay, free), L O'Neil (G. Nelson, Torquay, free).  
OUT: C Whyte (Leyton Orient, free).  
Championship odds: 25-1.

**Crystal Palace**  
Manager: Peter Beardsley (Feb 1995).  
IN: N Kilduff (Southampton, £250,000), N Macdonald (South Melbourne, £75,000).  
OUT: T Taylor (Huddersfield, free), D Matthews (Burnley, £85,000), M Marry (Leeds United, £225,000), R Wilford (Sheff Wed, £15,000).  
Championship odds: 25-1.

**Grimsby Town**  
Player-manager: Brian Lewis (Nov 1994).  
IN: K Black (Noton Forest, £25,000), L Widdington (Southampton, £300,000).  
OUT: P Groves (West Bromwich, £500,000), I Bonetti (Tramers, undisclosed), S Fraser (Lincoln, free).  
Championship odds: 66-1.

**Huddersfield Town**  
Manager: Brian Horton (June 1995).  
IN: M Short (Bristol Rovers, £12m), A Payton (Barnsley, £250,000), A Morrison (Blackpool, £500,000).  
OUT: A Booth (Sheff Wed, £15,000), R Jenson (Bury, £40,000).  
Championship odds: 29-1.

**Leeds United**  
Manager: George Burley (Dec 1994).  
IN: D Sonner (Preston, free), P Crook (N.wich, free), P Crook (N.wich, free), P Crook (N.wich, free).  
OUT: L Crook (N.wich, free), P Crook (N.wich, free), P Crook (N.wich, free).  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Manchester City**  
Manager: Alan Ball (July 1995).  
IN: none.  
OUT: David News (Millwall, free), Keith Carr (Wolves, £650,000), J Stamps (Exeter, free), D Kerr (Aston Utd, £20,000).  
Championship odds: 3-1.

**Norwich City**  
Manager: Neil Walker (June 1995).  
IN: I Crook (N.wich, free), M Brown (Ott, free), I Crook (N.wich, free), M Brown (Ott, free).  
OUT: I Crook (N.wich, free), M Brown (Ott, free), I Crook (N.wich, free).  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Oldham Athletic**  
Player-manager: Graeme Sharp (Nov 1994).  
IN: none.  
OUT: D Carrard (Everton, £15m).  
Championship odds: 50-1.

**Oxford United**  
Manager: Dennis Smith (Sept 1995).  
IN: N Jenson (Noton Forest, £80,000).  
OUT: A Allen (Nottingham Forest, £15,000), D Culp (Fulham, free).  
Championship odds: 40-1.

**Preston North End**  
Player-manager: Tony Farnick (Feb 1995).  
IN: S Simpson (Tottenham Hotspur, undisclosed), P Spies (Parisian Belg, undisclosed).  
OUT: J D. Ford (Torquay, free).  
Championship odds: 60-1.

**Port Vale**  
Manager: John Judge (Mar 1994).  
IN: none.  
OUT: none.  
Championship odds: 40-1.

**Queens Park Rangers**  
Player-manager: Ray Wilkins (Nov 1994).  
IN: M Purney (Cardiff, £200,000), N Purney (Cardiff, £200,000), S Black (Doncaster, free), G Goodridge and S Dystra (Bristol City, £100,000 combined).  
Championship odds: 4-1.

**Reading**  
Joint player-managers: Mick Gooding and Micky Quinn (Jan 1995).  
IN: P. Scott (Swindon Town, free), B Hunter (Wrexham, £40,000), A Williams (Wolves, £750,000).  
Championship odds: 65-1.

**Sheff Wed**  
Manager: Howard Kendall (Dec 1995).  
IN: N Spademan (Chelsea, free), L Sandford (Stoke City, £500,000).  
OUT: G Cowie (NAC, free), J Wilson (Torquay, free).  
Championship odds: 7-1.

**Southend United**  
Player-manager: Ronnie Whelan (July 1995).  
IN: none.  
OUT: R Williams (Peterborough Unad, undisclosed), M Horne (Lincoln City, free).  
Championship odds: 66-1.

**Stoke City**  
Manager: Lou Macari (Sept 1994).  
IN: R Forsyth (Birmingham, £200,000), R Sandford (Sheff Wed, £15,000), G Potter (Southampton, £200,000), R Sander (Chester City, free), C McDonald (Sheff Wed, £15,000), J. L. G. (Sheff Wed, £15,000).  
Championship odds: 25-1.

**Swindon Town**  
Player-manager: Steve Mahon (Nov 1994).  
IN: F. Darras (Bristol, free), M. B. (Ling, Leyton Orient, free), P. Bodin (Reading, free), B. Worral (Cardiff, free).  
Championship odds: 25-1.

**Tranmere Rovers**  
Player-manager: John Aldridge (Apr 1995).  
IN: I Bonetti (Grimsby, undisclosed).  
OUT: none.  
Championship odds: 33-1.

**West Bromwich Albion**  
Manager: Alan Buxton (Oct 1994).  
IN: R. Hanner (Newtown, £500,000), G. G. (Grimsby Town, £500,000), P. Peachesolid (Birmingham City, £500,000), P. Butler (Sheff Wed, £15,000).  
OUT: C. Hargreaves (Huddersfield, free), B. Bryn (Hull, free).  
Championship odds: 60-1.

**Wolverhampton Wanderers**  
Manager: Mark McGhee (Oct 1995).  
IN: I. Roberts (Leicester City, £1m), P. O'Neil (Manchester City, £500,000), R. O'Neil (Manchester City, £500,000), P. O'Neil (Manchester City, £500,000).  
OUT: P. O'Neil (Manchester City, £500,000), P. O'Neil (Manchester City, £500,000).  
Championship odds: 33-1.

**Wrexham**  
Manager: Phil Neal (Jan 1996).  
IN: J. Fowler (Bristol City, £1m), J. Cross (QPR, free), J. Aldrich (Cardiff Utd, free), J. Dyer (Barnsley, £150,000).  
OUT: J. Fowler (Bristol City, £1m), J. Cross (QPR, free), J. Aldrich (Cardiff Utd, free), J. Dyer (Barnsley, £150,000).  
Championship odds: 11-1.

**Wolves**  
Manager: Terry Down (Jan 1991).  
IN: A. Brian (West Brom, free), A. Brown (Sheff Wed, £15,000), L. Misatichenko (Rangers, free), L. O'Neil (G. Nelson, Torquay, free), L. O'Neil (G. Nelson, Torquay, free), L. O'Neil (G. Nelson, Torquay, free).

**Blackpool**  
Manager: Gary Megson (appointed July 1995).  
IN: B. Dixon (Lincoln City, £200,000), T. Henderson (Sheff Wed, £15,000), G. Strain (Bury, £200,000).  
OUT: A. Morrison (Huddersfield Town, £500,000), C. Beach (Huddersfield Town, £500,000), G. Strain (Bury, £200,000).  
Championship odds: 12-1.

**Bournemouth**  
Manager: Mel West (Sept 1994).  
IN: M. Watson (Macc. Hant. Utd, free), P. Peterson (Cardiff Utd, free), P. Peterson (Cardiff Utd, free), P. Peterson (Cardiff Utd, free).  
OUT: J. D. Ford (Torquay, free), J. D. Ford (Torquay, free), J. D. Ford (Torquay, free).  
Championship odds: 33-1.

**Brentford**  
Manager: David Webb (May 1993).  
IN: M. McPherson (West Ham United, undisclosed), S. Myall (Brighton and Hove Albion, £150,000), R. Goddard (Crawley Town, free).  
OUT: none.  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Bristol City**  
Manager: Joe Jordan (Nov 1994).  
IN: G. Goodridge and S. Dystra (Queens Park Rangers, £100,000 combined), S. Black (Doncaster, free), G. Goodridge and S. Dystra (Queens Park Rangers, £100,000 combined).  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Bristol Rovers**  
Manager: Ian Holloway (June 1995).  
IN: M. Lockwood (Queen's Park Rangers, £150,000), S. Myall (Brighton and Hove Albion, £150,000), R. Goddard (Crawley Town, free).  
OUT: none.  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Bury**  
Manager: Alan Heath (Mar 1995).  
IN: D. Mathew (Crystal Palace, £55,000), N. G. (Stoke City, free), V. O'Sullivan (Stoke City, free).  
OUT: none.  
Championship odds: 16-1.

**Burnley**  
Manager: Alan Smith (Jan 1995).  
IN: M. Lockwood (Queen's Park Rangers, £150,000), S. Myall (Brighton and Hove Albion, £150,000), R. Goddard (Crawley Town, free).  
OUT: none.  
Championship odds: 20-1.

**Cardiff City**  
Manager: Phil Neal (Jan 1996).  
IN: J. Fowler (Bristol City, £1m), J. Cross (QPR, free), J. Aldrich (Cardiff Utd, free), J. Dyer (Barnsley, £150,000).  
OUT: J. Fowler (Bristol City, £1m), J. Cross (QPR, free), J. Aldrich (Cardiff Utd, free), J. Dyer (Barnsley, £150,000).  
Championship odds: 11-1.

**Cardiff Utd**  
Manager: Phil Neal (Jan 1996).  
IN: J. Fowler (Bristol City, £1m), J. Cross (QPR, free), J. Aldrich (Cardiff Utd, free), J. Dyer (Barnsley, £150,000).  
OUT: J. Fowler

# Amundsen blazes trail for sporting giants

What would you guess most people would rate as the most impressive sporting record of the 20th century? The breaking of the four-minute mile barrier in 1954 perhaps? The winning of the Tour de France five times in a row by Miguel Indurain? The clutch of gold medals carried off by Carl Lewis? The victories in the Winter Olympic slalom three times in a row by Alberto Tomba?

The answer, according to a new Europe-wide survey of sporting heroes, is rather more startling. It is a performance set up long before the hype of television coverage, long before the idea

## 'Local heroes fill all the top places'

that a sportsman's greatest ambition was to be turned by sponsors and agents into a millionaire. It was the achievement of being the first man to reach the South Pole, a race won in 1911 by the Norwegian explorer, Roald Amundsen.

The survey was dreamt up by DuPont, the chemical, fibres and oil giant, as its contribution to the great summer of sport. It asked Gallup pollsters to find out what people in Western Europe regard as the most impressive sporting achievements of the 20th century. They talked to

almost 5,000 people in Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Spain. The findings give a revealing insight, not only into what makes a sporting hero, but also into the minds of the public who cast their votes.

Delightfully, for a survey that was carried out entirely in Europe, the overall accolade for the greatest individual sports person of the century went to a Brazilian — Pelé. He was followed in the roll of honour by a Spanish cyclist, Indurain, an Italian

skier, Tomba, a Brazilian racing driver, Ayrton Senna, an American boxer, Muhammad Ali, and then that great Norwegian explorer again, surprisingly getting in ahead of the likes of

Lewis and Michael Schumacher. But whether such a survey can really tell anything about what makes a hero is doubtful and when the results are broken down by nation, the nonsense of the voting shows through. Invariably and predictably, national heroes fill all the top places.

When asked for their views on the most impressive performances in winter sports, for example, the Germans voted three Germans top, the Italians three Italians, the French and Spanish one each of their countrymen. Even the British (never



reckoned to be strong in winter sports) voted our own into the top spots — Torvill and Dean, and Robin Cousins.

It was the same story when it came to voting for the most impressive sports personality of the century. The French put three of their own into the top places, the Germans two.

Ask a Spaniard who is the greatest individual sportsman in the world and he will tell you it is Indurain. Ask a German to name the greatest team player and you find it is Franz Beckenbauer. Ask a Frenchman to rank motor racing drivers and Alain Prost comes out on top.

The British are guilty of chauvinism, too, but the results show them to be more generous than most. Although Sebastian Coe was a clear winner as the most impressive track

and field athlete, Britain voted Lewis second and our top eight also includes Emil Zatopek, Jesse Owens, Sergey Bubka and Abebe Bikila. Interestingly, Linford Christie does not get a look in on the list of the most famous athletes, as seen through the eyes of the British public.

Of course, the only thing that surveys such as this really tell us about sports fans is that nations make a great fuss of their winners, their own national heroes — but the

pollsters should try telling that to the seamy partner of our only gold medal-winning team in Atlanta, Steve Redgrave. Short of rowing to the South Pole, it is difficult to see what more Redgrave could have done to capture the imagination of the sporting public.

He took his fourth gold medal at the Olympics to become Britain's most successful Olympian ever — only to find that, on his triumphant return home this week, he was met by just six people, and they were all members of his family.

There was just a single Union Jack draped over a barrier in the arrivals lounge at Gatwick — and that had been brought by his mother, Redgrave, granite-faced as ever, said he was disappointed but not sur-

prised. "I've yet to receive any acknowledgement of what I achieved," he said. "In Dublin, the Irish President was there to greet Michelle Smith. That is how they treat their athletes. I didn't get so much as a note from John Major. We need to decide in this country whether we want a team of winners or not."

He does seem to have a point. Smith, the Irish swimmer who world by carrying off three gold medals, was greeted by a crowd reported to be 50,000-strong, a red carpet, a presidential reception and the full Dublin party.

There are, apparently, plans afoot to give Redgrave a civic reception when he goes back to Marlow, where they know a thing or two about rowing. Let's hope they do it in style. Eighty-four years ago, when Amundsen went back to Norway after his journey to the Pole, he was greeted by rapturous crowds, a full-scale banquet and accolades from the Norwegian king, George V.

They did not need opinion polls to tell them how to greet a hero in those days.

## 'The British are more generous'

JOHN BRYANT

CRICKET: PAKISTANIS FIND BATTING A STRUGGLE ON WORN PITCH AT GRACE ROAD

# Leicestershire spinners call tune

BY PAT GIBSON

LEICESTER (first day of three, Pakistanis won toss): Leicestershire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 193 runs behind the Pakistanis

RELATIONS between England and Pakistan this summer have been so cordial that it would be a shame to spoil the atmosphere, but anyone with a suspicious mind could easily have come up with a conspiracy theory yesterday.

If part of England's strategy towards winning the final Test and squaring the series was to deprive Pakistan of the meaningful batting practice they need in being played on a Yorkshire pudding of a pitch at Headingley, and the fastest surface in the land at the Oval, they could not have made a much better job of it.

The Pakistanis were asked to play on a Grace Road pitch which had been used three times this season, once for a Benson and Hedges Cup game in May and twice recently for Sunday league matches. Not surprisingly, they struggled to reach a total of 221 with the Leicestershire spinners.

Brimson and Pierson, taking seven wickets between them. The official explanation was that, with three pitches out of use because they have been relaid, Leicestershire are running out of strips to play on.

The Pakistanis did not seem to mind too much. After all, anything Pierson and Brimson could do, their own

spinners, Mushtaq Ahmed and Saqlain Mushtaq, were likely to do rather better.

Leicestershire were without their captain, Whitaker, and their vice-captain, Simmons, both trying to get fully fit for the more serious business of trying to win the county championship, while their England bowler, Muttiah Muralitharan, was having a rest.

It looked as though Mills was to be joined when he left the field after bowling one over but such a cynical thought was promptly dispelled when the physiotherapist took his place as twelfth

man. Mills was soon back to have Shahid Anwar caught behind before the spinners went to work.

Brimson, the emerging slow left-arm, had Saeed Ahmed stumped in his first over and bowled Shadab Kabir in his third, leaving Asim Sohail, who is captaining the side, to set about rebuilding the innings with Salim Malik.

Sohail, still having treatment for the hand injury he suffered in a fall during the first Test, did not seem to be in too much discomfort in batting for almost an hour, but when he had made 30 he was bowled behind his legs, sweeping at Brimson.

Three of the next four wickets fell to Pierson, the gangling off-spinner, who had Asif Mujtaba driving in some desperation to cover. Moin Khan caught and bowled and Salim Malik caught at slip off a ball which turned and bounced.

The Pakistanis would have been even more embarrassed but for a ninth-wicket stand of 79 in 22 overs between Mushtaq Ahmed and Ata-ur-Rehman. It ended when Mushtaq, having struck five brilliant fours in his 38, was given out caught off his glove as he tried to evade a short ball from Pierson and departed vigorously, rubbing his left elbow.

He soon had his chance for revenge, but it was the speedy Mohammad Akram, bidding to make the Test side, who bowled Sutcliffe with the last ball of the day.

## SCOREBOARD

PAKISTAN: First Innings  
Shadab Kabir b Brimson 25  
Shahid Anwar c Nisran b Mills 1  
Saeed Ahmed b Brimson 22  
Asim Sohail b Brimson 30  
Salim Malik c Pierson b Brimson 32  
Asif Murtaza c Smith b Pierson 14  
Moin Khan c and b Pierson 2  
Saqlain Mushtaq c Brimson b Pierson 36  
Mushtaq Ahmed c Nisran b Pierson 36  
Ata-ur-Rehman c Smith b Brimson 30  
Mohammad Akram not out 0  
Extras (b 5, lb 13, w 1, nb 4) 23  
Total 221

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-53, 3-62, 4-69, 5-129, 6-131, 7-148, 8-142, 9-221

BOWLING: Mills 18-5-50-1; Pierson 22-9-42-2; Wells 5-2-18-0; Pierson 20-8-44-3; Brimson 21-9-39-4; Clarke 4-1-10-0

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings  
D.L. Maddy not out 8  
J. Sutcliffe b Mohammad 16  
Extras (b 1, w 4) 5  
Total (1 wk) 28

FALL OF WICKET: 1-28  
B.F. Smith, A. Habib, V.P. Clarke, M.J. Wells, P.A. Nixon, D.J. Mills, G.J. Pierson, A.R.K. Pierson and M.T. Brimson to bat

FALL OF WICKET: 1-28  
BOWLING: Ata-ur-Rehman 2-0-6-0; Mohammad Akram 5-1-18-1; Mushtaq Ahmed 3-1-3-0  
Umpires: M.J. Kitchin and G. Sheph.

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He soon had his chance for revenge, but it was the speedy Mohammad Akram, bidding to make the Test side, who bowled Sutcliffe with the last ball of the day.



Salim Malik produces a rare attacking stroke

## TABLE

Rank	Team	P	W	L	D	St	Pts
1	Surrey	12	10	1	1	57	44
2	Leeds	12	6	1	5	39	41
3	Essex	12	6	2	4	41	39
4	Kent	12	5	1	6	39	38
5	Derbyshire	12	5	2	5	39	38
6	Yorkshire	12	6	2	4	37	37
7	Gloucestershire	12	5	2	5	37	37
8	Sussex	12	5	2	5	37	37
9	Worcestershire	12	5	2	5	37	37
10	Warwickshire	12	5	2	5	37	37
11	Somerset	12	4	3	5	35	34
12	Gloucestershire	12	4	3	5	35	34
13	Worcestershire	12	4	3	5	35	34
14	Hampshire	12	4	3	5	35	34
15	Gloucestershire	12	4	3	5	35	34
16	Leicestershire	12	4	3	5	35	34
17	Nottinghamshire	12	4	3	5	35	34
18	Nottinghamshire	12	4	3	5	35	34
19	Nottinghamshire	12	4	3	5	35	34
20	Nottinghamshire	12	4	3	5	35	34

(Last season's positions in brackets)

## WORDWATCHING

Answers from page 40

**ORTEGUINA**  
(a) In bull-fighting, a decorative pass made with the muleta. An synonym of Domingo Ortega (born 1900), a Spanish bullfighter who practised it. "The muleta is another embellishment. Formerly, it was called the orteguina, after Domingo Ortega, who took it from the nineteenth-century repertoire and refurbished it. Manolete picked it up and further refined (ie vulgarised) it."

**REUMA**  
(b) The periodic turning or shaking of bottled wine (especially champagne) to move sediment towards the cork before disgorgement. The French for "moving about". "Along the walls were countless bottles top downwards in racks. Ready for the reuma. Gets the sediment down to the cork."

**PSEUDORANDOM**  
(c) Satisfying one or more statistical tests for randomness but produced by a definite mathematical procedure. "The recipient of a coded message can then be provided with a generator that operates exactly like the one used to add pseudorandom digits to the original message."

**REINCA**  
(d) In Maori tradition, the place where departed spirits make their way into the next world; hence, the land of departed spirits. Maori for "the place of leaving". "The natives in the north of the island still point out the cliff from which the spirits [of the dead] made their descent into the sea on their way back to the island of Hawaii, from whence their forefathers came. This cliff was called the Re-in-ca, ie the leaping place."

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# TCCB side further weakened by Brown's withdrawal

BY SIMON WILDE

SOUTH AFRICA A take an unbeaten record into the last and most important fixture of their seven-week tour against a TCCB XI at Chester-le-Street today, but whether the match is capable of living up to its billing must be open to serious doubt. Not only will Paul Adams, the one member of the youthful visiting party well known to the English public, not be on view, but, for the second year running, the English representative side has been chosen only from those counties without championship commitments.

While Duncan Fletcher, the South Africa A coach, wisely does not wish to write off a team he has not yet seen in action, this is one aspect of the tour that has disheartened him. "Many of the teams we have met have preferred to rest first-choice players and that is disappointing," he said yesterday.

"When England A toured South Africa a couple of years ago, the A team they played in their last match was regarded as the second-most important team in the country and I was told, as Western Province coach, that I must make do

without several players because they were wanted for that side."

In England, things are unenviably different. When Young Australia toured last year, the TCCB XI contained players from only four counties; this year the English selectors chose from five, although within the scope available to them they have clearly proffered the hand of encouragement to a number of promising performers, notably Adam Hoolioake, the captain, Salisbury and Cowan.

After the withdrawal yesterday of Simon Brown, Durham's first Test player, who has a knee injury, James Kirtley, who is hardly a household name, even in his native Sussex, was brought in.

If reports of the pitch are anything to go by, Kirtley and his fellow seamen could be busy. Whether the match lasts its allotted time is, of course, a moot point. The fixture with Young Australia was completed in only two days on a wholly unsuitable surface at Edgbaston and there can be no guarantee that a new ground, with a square that is bedding down, will not provide another embarrassingly swift encounter.

With the three leading championship sides not in action today, the spotlight will fall on their three closest pursuers, one of whom, Yorkshire, having just lost another cup match to Lancashire and Bevan, their overseas player, may be vulnerable at Bristol.

## RADIO CHOICE

# When badges aren't enough

A Degree of Uncertainty. Radio 4, 7.30pm.

Part Two of his inquiry into what universities are and are not doing to prepare graduates for jobs, finds David Walker in much the same pessimistic mood he was in last Thursday. This is how he concludes tonight's episode: "Universities give you a badge and expectations, but not much that is directly relevant to the world of work." He but not much that is directly relevant to the world of work? He speculates on what might be demanded of universities if they had to teach their pupils the skills of survival in a tough professional environment? pupils the skills of survival in a tough professional environment? He instead of merely floating the question, David Walker should have got a don to answer it. After all, he doesn't allow any other educationalist to wriggle off his hook.

The Road to Paradise. Radio 4, 7pm.

Fiction based on fact, Julia Pascal's drama is about a Jewish girl's wartime odyssey from her home in Vienna to London, then to the remote island of Guernsey and finally, Auschwitz. Given its theme of a life cruelly cut short, *The Road to Paradise* could not fail to sadden us, and Pascal certainly knows how to squeeze out the last drop of pathos. I am not sure it was a good idea to construct the play's framework out of letters from the doomed girl (Tracy Wiles). The weakness of the device is most strongly exposed when her final communication to the outside world is thought out loud in the gas chamber at Auschwitz.

Peter Davalle

**RADIO 1**  
FM Stereo 6.30am Chris Evans 9.00  
Kevin Greening 11.30am Radio 1 Road  
show, live from the Hoot in Plymouth  
12.20pm Lisa Fiedler 1.00pm Dave Pearce  
7.00pm Evening Session 9.00pm Collins and  
Macrae's Hit Parade 10.00pm Mark  
Radcliffe 12.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00  
am Warren

**RADIO 2**  
FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy  
7.30am Wake Up to Wogan 9.30am Ken Bruce  
11.30am Jimmy Young 1.30pm Just Spens  
3.00pm Ed Sheeran 5.00pm John Dunn 7.30pm  
The Alan 8.30pm Show 7.30pm David Allen  
9.00pm Paul Jones 10.00pm Daniel  
O'Donnell's Musical Cane 10.00pm  
explores the roots of Irish music (1/6)  
10.30pm The Jamieson 12.00am Sue  
McCarthy 3.00am Alex Lester

**RADIO 5 LIVE**  
5.00am Morning Reports 6.00pm The  
Breakfast Programme 8.35pm The Maga-  
zine, with Diana Madill, Inc 10.35pm News  
from Europe 12.00pm Midday with Mar, Inc  
12.35pm Moneycheck, with Katie  
Dermott 2.00pm Rascals on Five, Inc  
3.45pm Entertainment News 4.00pm National  
view, Inc at 5.45pm Entertainment News  
7.00pm News Extra, Inc at 7.20pm Sports  
Bulletin 7.35pm David Gower's Cricket  
Weekly Includes a look at how cricket  
and local fare alongside each other  
9.05pm SportsAmerica, with Alan Day  
9.35pm American Graffiti 10.05pm News Talk  
10.35pm Radio 5 Live at the Fringe 11.00pm  
Night Extra 12.05am After Hours —  
Early Call 1.00-5.00pm Up All Night — The  
Race for the White House

**TALK RADIO**  
6.30pm Paul Ross 10.00pm Scott Chisholm  
1.00pm Anna Rasmussen 3.00pm  
Tommy Boyd 5.00pm Peter Dwyer 7.00pm  
Scott 10.00pm James White 1.00pm Ian  
Coles

**WORLD SERVICE**  
All times in BST. News on the hour  
6.30am Europe Today 6.30 Europe  
Today 6.30 The World Today 7.30  
Sports International 8.10 Words of Faith  
8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Network UK 9.15  
Composer of the Month 10.15 Sports  
International 10.45 Sports Roundup  
11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf  
12.30pm Meridian 1.15 Britain Today  
1.30 Assignment 3.05pm Outlook Today  
3.30 Multitrack 4.05pm Sports Roundup 4.15  
BBC English 4.30pm News in German 5.30  
Business 5.45pm Britain Today 6.10 World  
Today 6.25pm Take Five 6.30pm News in  
German 6.45pm Sports Roundup 7.30pm  
Assignment 8.01pm Outlook 9.25pm Words of  
Faith 9.30pm John Peel 10.05pm Business  
Today 10.30pm Meridian  
10.15pm Britain Today 11.45pm Sport  
11.30pm World Today 11.45pm Sport  
12.10pm Take Five 12.15pm Poems by  
Post 12.30pm Rock, Salad 1.30pm Good  
Books 1.45pm Britain Today 2.30pm Outlook  
2.55pm Words of Faith 3.30pm Thirty-Minute  
Drama 4.15pm Sport 4.30pm Europe Today

**CLASSIC FM**  
4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00am Mike Read  
9.00am Nick Bailey 12.00pm Susanah  
Simons 2.00pm Concorde, Ravel (Piano  
Concerto for Left Hand) 3.00pm Jackie  
Chick 6.00pm Newsnight 6.30pm Travel  
Debutay (Moin Sonata) 7.00pm Travel  
Guide Sale in the Caravan 8.00pm  
Evening Concert: Ibert (Suite  
Espanolaise); Anouilh Daurignac  
(Concert de Symphonies in F); Bizet  
(Jeu d'Enfants); Mahaud (Cello Concerto  
No 1); Ibert (Daurignac), Ravel (Le  
Fauconnier) 10.00pm Michael Hepburn  
1.00am Sally Peterson

**VIRGIN RADIO**  
6.00am Russ 'n' John 9.00am Richard  
Skinner 12.00pm Graham Davis 4.00pm  
Nicky Horns 7.00pm Paul Coyte  
(FM) 10.00pm News (FM) 10.00pm  
Forest 2.00pm Pandit Las Rose

**RADIO 3**  
6.00am On Air. Includes Darius  
(Symphony in C); Krumpholtz  
(Overture for C); Zaretzky  
(I Scolori, excerpts); Vorkes  
(Variations in B flat, Op 19);  
Beethoven (Romance in F,  
Op 50); Mahaud (Le Carnaval  
de Londres, excerpts)  
9.00 Morning Collection with  
Paul Gambelton  
Shostakovich (Festive  
Overture), Bach (Double  
Violin Concerto in D minor,  
BWV 1043); Kuhmau (The  
Battle between David and  
Goliath, Biblical Sonata No 1);  
Tippett (Piano Sonata No 1)  
10.00 Musical Encounters  
Includes Strauss (Don Juan);  
Beethoven (Twelve Variations  
on Mozart's Ein Marchen  
oder Walchen from Die  
Zauberflote) 10.30pm Proms  
Artist of the Week: Judith  
Hovatta, soprano, Fala  
(Seven Popular Spanish  
Songs) 10.40pm Ravel  
(Habanera); Brahms  
(Symphony No 3 in F) 11.25pm  
Podium: (live verum corpus);  
Lewes (Consort Suite in A  
minor); Britten (On This Island)  
12.00pm Composer of the Week:  
Bach  
1.00pm Stival John Allison  
concludes his exploration into  
the roots of Russian Opera  
2.00pm Nikolai Demidov, piano  
Fala (Sonata No 4 in B, H17);  
Schumann (Variations on a  
Theme by Clara Weck,  
Concert sans orchestre);  
Chopin (Nocturnes in F  
sharp, Op 15 No 2; in C  
sharp minor, Op 27 No 1; in F  
sharp minor, Op 48 No 2)  
2.50pm Preoccupations, Barbara  
Bonney, soprano, talks about  
her passion for neoclassical

**RADIO 4**  
5.55pm Shipping Forecast (LW  
only) 6.00pm News Briefing Inc  
Weather 6.10pm Farming Today  
6.25pm Prayer for the Day 6.30pm  
Today 7.25pm 8.25pm Sport  
7.45pm Thought for the Day  
8.40pm The Changing Forest  
(45) 8.58pm Weather  
9.00pm News 9.05pm The Moral Maze,  
with Michael Buerk  
10.00pm News: Minor Adjustment  
(45), by Andy and Eric  
Merriman, Peter Davidson and  
Samantha Bond start a family  
with a young daughter who  
has Down's syndrome (5/6)  
10.00pm Daily Service (LW)  
10.15pm This Day (LW)  
10.30pm Women's Hour  
11.30pm From Our Own  
Correspondent  
12.00pm News: You and Yours, with  
Chris Choi  
12.05pm Slightly Focused. The  
literary quiz returns with Gill  
Pyrah in the chair and guests  
Derek Langdon, Alice  
Armstrong, Helene Wignall and  
Nick Jackson 12.30pm Weather  
1.00pm The World at One, with Nick  
Clarke  
1.40pm The Archers (1) 1.55pm  
Shipping Forecast  
2.00pm News: The Road to  
Paradise. See Choice  
3.00pm News: The Afternoon Shift,  
with Brian Sibbs  
4.00pm News 4.05pm Kaleidoscope at  
Edinburgh. In the first week of  
the festival, Paul Allen  
presents a live outside  
broadcast from the Festival  
Theatre. Includes Orlando,  
starring Miranda Richardson,  
the Velezquez exhibition at  
the National Gallery of  
Scotland, and the Netherlands  
Dance Theatre

**5.55pm Shipping Forecast (LW only)** 6.00pm News Briefing Inc

**Weather** 6.10pm Farming Today

**6.25pm Prayer for the Day** 6.30pm Today 7.25pm 8.25pm Sport

**7.45pm Thought for the Day** 8.40pm The Changing Forest (45)

**8.58pm Weather** 9.00pm News 9.05pm The Moral Maze, with Michael Buerk

**10.00pm News: Minor Adjustment** (45), by Andy and Eric Merriman, Peter Davidson and Samantha Bond start a family with a young daughter who has Down's syndrome (5/6)

**10.00pm Daily Service (LW)** 10.15pm This Day (LW) 10.30pm Women's Hour

**11.30pm From Our Own Correspondent** 12.00pm News: You and Yours, with Chris Choi

**12.05pm Slightly Focused.** The literary quiz returns with Gill Pyrah in the chair and guests Derek Langdon, Alice Armstrong, Helene Wignall and Nick Jackson

**12.30pm Weather** 1.00pm The World at One, with Nick Clarke

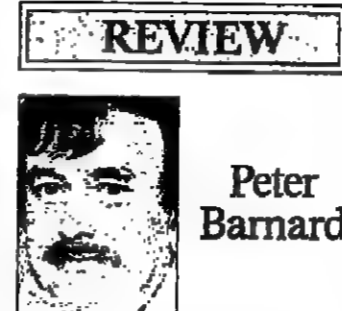
# Never mind the length, fight for quality

A documentary made this summer and another made 30 years ago were the most eye-catching items in the schedules last night, yet it was a modest little number on Channel 4 that came up on the rails to steal the main plaudits. Never judge an evening by the listings.

A huge Russian with the ability to arch his body and use it to support several weights plus five men, a total of more than 2,200lbs, did not seem like the stuff of riveting television. But it was, because Valentin Dikul is a genuine hero, a truly extraordinary man.

He attended the rehabilitation centre run by Dikul, who had broken his back when a trapeze bar snapped during his circus act. Doctors confronted Dikul with the dread words: you will never walk again. Dikul did walk again. He knew that a broken back is not quite as hopeless as a broken neck. He has a maxim, and shame on anyone who thinks it trite: "Those who work will walk." Dikul believes that most muscles can be taught to do their old jobs and that muscles which are beyond repair can have their jobs done by other muscles.

Dikul believes that "movement means life to people. The human organism has so many undiscovered resources and possibilities". This may be so, but the point about Dikul is that he has limitless determination, incredible will. At his rehabilitation centre, he offered Stokic what he offers others: some technique and some equipment to take home. And masses of inspiration.



Peter Barnard

of thing and we learnt nothing new last night. The truth about football hooliganism is that there is not much of it about and most of what there was in June was the product of too much booze. A documentary about the advanced state of police intelligence would have been interesting, but not so television.

So we were left with endless footage of heaving masses and police officers talking into radios and pointing at video screens. Pictures for their own sake. I changed for Valentin Dikul to walk in and reduce the television set to chopsticks.

His failure to do so at least ensured that I watched a proper documentary about proper people. This was *Don't Count the Candles* (BBC2), the first television film made by Lord Snowdon, in the 1960s, in black and white.

This film, and Snowdon's still photography, demonstrate his unerring eye for picture composition

and his ability as a director to be present in a room without dominating the proceedings, a lesson some modern documentary makers could learn to their benefit and ours. *Don't Count the Candles* is about old age but the film itself has not aged one bit.

Snowdon tackled on a new introduction. He said he was 35 when he made the film but now has a bus pass. It's a fairly episodic film and it's also quite snobbish, there are a lot of name people in it. The apologetic tone was unnecessary, for the names - Noel Coward, Lady Asquith, Barbara Hepworth, among others - were good value.

- 6.00am Business Breakfast** (22080) 7.00 **BBC Breakfast News** (Cesfax) (39379) 9.00 **Breakfast News Extra** (Cesfax) (29757)
- 9.30 Delta Smith's Summer Collection** (1) (Cesfax) (s) (7597202)
- 9.50 Gourmet Ireland** (5931028)
- 10.20 FILM: Lucky Jim** (b/w, 1957) Classic British comedy, based on the novel by Kingsley Amis, about a junior history lecturer at a provincial university. Directed by John Boulting (10508644)
- 12.00 News and weather** (162384)
- 12.05pm The Alphabet Game** (4893047)
- 12.35 Neighbours** (Cesfax) (s) (6624950)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News and weather** (37378) 1.30 **Regional News** (4291539)
- 1.40 Small Talk** (r) (7977738)
- 2.15 Lovejoy** (218940)
- 3.05 Unspeakable Verne** (737641) 3.20 **The Rockford Files** (8225738) 4.50 **Knots Landing** (7156955)
- 5.35 Neighbours** (1) (Cesfax) (s) (669844)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News** (Cesfax) (202)
- 6.30 Regional News** (Cesfax) (554)
- 7.00 Holidays Out** Kirsty Young and Ben Hall present more ideas for days out and weekends across the country. (Cesfax) (s) (6757)
- 7.30 EastEnders** There's a special promotion at the Cobra Club, while Nigel and Sanjay run a disco for the kids. Cindy and David find time for a chat about the future. (Cesfax) (s) (738)
- 8.00 Back to the Wild** Patrick Robinson goes behind the scenes at the RSPCA's wildlife hospital in Somerset (4405)
- 8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers** Terry Wogan introduces another selection of the sporting action that should never have happened (Cesfax) (s) (3912)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News** (Cesfax) regional news and weather (7950)
- 9.30 Atlantic Partick** The lives and loves of an amateur football team on and off the field. Jack starts this episode with a new girlfriend and ends up in a gay club with a new boyfriend (Cesfax) (s) (61283)
- 10.00 Defence of the Realm: The Trident Countdown** For the first time, cameras are allowed on board the top-secret Trident nuclear submarine (Cesfax) (s) (771573)
- 10.55 You Decide** Jeremy Paxman invites a studio audience to debate a topical issue, presiding over the argument and counter-argument on the issue of the week. A final live phone-in reveals the verdict (297186)
- 11.45 FILM: Appointment in Honduras** (1952) with Glenn Ford, Ann Sheridan and Zachary Scott. An entrepreneur with money to help fight the rebels in Honduras, Jim Corbett's ship is diverted, forcing him to undertake a dangerous trek through the jungle. Directed by Jacques Tourneur (426564)
- 1.00am The Road to the White House 1996: The Republican Party Convention** Live coverage of the proceedings of the first in the year's American election conventions (7943983)
- 4.00 Weather** (64573806)

- 6.00am Open University: A Natural Model** (3742485) 6.30 **World and Energy** (2639979) 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (Cesfax and signing) (6070022)
- 7.30 The Brits** (3218347) 7.45 **Lessie** (1802863) 8.10 **Smurfs' Adventures** (5413486) 8.35 **Cartoon Critics** (3486509) 9.05 **Spiderman** (1) (s) (2960370) 9.35 **The Village by the Sea** (7803688) 9.50 **Playboys** (s) (3194554) 10.00 **Playboys** (s) (7131314)
- 10.25 Man in a Sulfuric** (1) (2803554) 11.15 **The Phil Spector Show** (1) (8534370) 11.40 **The Addams Family** (1) (594775) 12.05pm **Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century** (4891689) 12.35 **It's a Living** (6622592) 1.00 **The Brits** (4594069) 1.15 **A-Z of Food** (2492486) 1.25 **Menus and Music** (4592318)
- 1.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show** (8090047) 2.20 **Crosshairs** (8737000) 2.50 **Don't Be an Anorak** (1562134) 3.00 **News** (1702202) 3.05 **The Natural World** (1873825) 3.55 **News** (3387573)
- 4.00 Cartoon** (5536680) 4.05 **Little Mouse on the Prairie** (3396221) 4.30 **Bouncing Back** (s) (979) 5.00 **Newsround** (9534757) 5.10 **Byker Grove** (1) (Cesfax) (4348467)
- 5.35 FILM: South of St Louis** (1949). Three friends see their ranch destroyed at the start of the American Civil War. Directed by Ray Enright (4050488)
- 7.00 Seven Ages of Man** Anthony Clare talks to Lord Dunsany (Cesfax) (s) (3399)
- 7.30 Designer Dreams** (s) (680)



Kirsty Young in Esmouth (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Street** Kirsty Young and her team visit Victoria Road in Esmouth, Devon (Cesfax) (s) (2047)
- 8.30 One Foot on the Continent** By the time he had won his fourth election in 1974, the Prime Minister turning paranoid? Ten years on from his first, buoyant success, Wilson had begun to drink heavily and was obsessed by rumours that his wife, Jean, was having an affair. This is the story of a man who was not only a politician, but a man of letters. Directed by Peter Kosminsky (426564)
- 9.00 The Travel Show** From Chicago, which is challenging New York as America's first-choice city break. (Cesfax) (s) (5582)
- 9.30 Dark Secret: Too Much, Too Young** The condition of precocious puberty, which affects 500 young people each year (2/6) (68823)
- 10.00 Hancock** The town's hero, Hancock, plays Old Joshua Mervinweather in a radio series. His behaviour leads to him being written out of the script. (Cesfax) (s) (62047) Followed by Video Nation Shorts (62047)
- 10.30 Newswatch** (Cesfax) (73373) 11.15 **Oldie TV** (325738) Followed by Weather
- 12.00 Grace Under Fire** (Cesfax) (s) (45805)
- 12.30am Open University: The Renaissance** Chapel, Florence (18210) 1.00 **Soap and Water** (82158) 1.30 **Greenberg** on Jackson Pollock (40644) 2.00 **Summer Nights** (662584) 4.00 **Music** (Cesfax) (s) (38245) 4.00 **Music** (Cesfax) (s) (38245) 4.00 **Music** (Cesfax) (s) (38245) 4.00 **Music** (Cesfax) (s) (38245)

**Black Bag: Suicide Warriors** Channel 4, 8.00pm

Question: What makes the Black Tigers of Sri Lanka different from other rebels? Answer: They are willing to die if they can take the "enemy" with them. This was true of Japan's kamikaze pilots but unlike them the Black Tigers (the elite suicide bombers within the Tamil army) do not expect a reward in Heaven. The war between the majority Sinhalese Government and the Tamil separatists has been raging since the late 1970s and so far has killed more than 40,000 - including countless civilians. Sabiha Sumar's unique film concentrates on the Tamil women within the Tamil army who are their secret strength: the women, fighting for equality with their men, are often better at precision shooting and bombing. And they are just as fanatical, eager and proud to be accepted as Black Tigers. Says one: "Even if we fall in love we will not deviate from our aim." Chilling.

**One Foot on the Continent** BBC2, 8.30pm

"Southern Tuscany... there is something improbable about its beauty," intones Andrew Graham-Dixon as he takes *One Foot on the Continent* to the heart of the region. As you'd expect from this intrepid team, there is nothing touristy or obvious in their Italian discoveries. Pienza, a perfect Renaissance town, created by Pope Pius II, has a Gothic cathedral inspired by our very own York - "but without stained-glass windows. This Pope wanted sun," says Dixon. Kirsty Young's version "has not been in the guidebooks since 1976 when two earthquakes obliterated most of it." But the townfolk have sifted through the rubble to reconstruct their gem in the Dolomites. And if you thought you knew Palermo - well, think again when you follow Dan Cruickshank into the Palazzo Cusani.

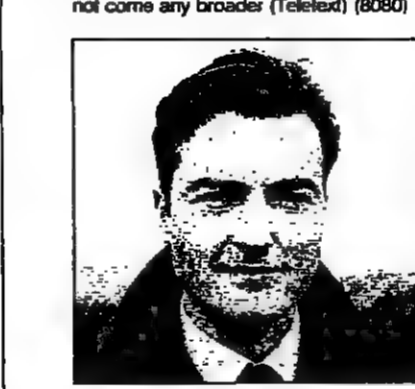
**Secret History: Harold Wilson - The Final Days** Channel 4, 9.00pm

By the time he had won his fourth election in 1974, the Prime Minister turning paranoid? Ten years on from his first, buoyant success, Wilson had begun to drink heavily and was obsessed by rumours that his wife, Jean, was having an affair. This is the story of a man who was not only a politician, but a man of letters. Directed by Peter Kosminsky (426564)

**Defence of the Realm: Trident Countdown** BBC1, 10pm

This unprecedented inside look at the MoD is shaping into an impressive series. It is hard to fault the immense sense of occasion, the patriotism and tension among the 134-strong crew of the submarine HMS Victorious as she prepares for the big day. The last of one of the 16 (unarmed) Trident missiles. As each warhead is five times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb there are obvious questions to be asked and reporter Peter Taylor doesn't fudge them. But Commander Jonny Powis revels in the responsibility... there is no point having nuclear weapons if you are not prepared to fire them." Elizabeth Cowley

- 6.00am GMTV** (4078844)
- 9.25 Halfway across the Galaxy and Turn Left** (7560115)
- 9.50 Hope and Gloria** (5626196)
- 10.20 ITN News** (5242554)
- 10.25 Regional News** (5241825)
- 10.30 Lady Boss** The first of a two-part serial based on the novel by Jackie Collins (1) (4088216)
- 12.20pm Regional News** (1629028)
- 12.30 ITN Lunchtime News** (Telex) (6627047)
- 12.55 Shortland Street** (8602738) 1.25 **Coronation Street** (8736320) 2.00 **Home and Away** (58945757)
- 2.25 FILM: A Town Torn Apart** (1992). The conclusion of yesterday's film. Directed by Daniel Petrie (9612270)
- 3.20 ITN News** (1718562)
- 3.25 Regional News** (1718863)
- 3.30 The Riddlers** (3110019) 3.40 **Wizards** (3925844) 3.50 **Molly's Gang** (510955) 4.05 **Animapals** Superhero animation (2816580) 4.20 **Blazing Dragons** (2031825) 4.45 **The Scoop** (1268399)
- 5.10 A Country Practice** (5638863)
- 5.40 ITN Early Evening News** (Telex) (185467)
- 6.00 Home and Away** (1) (Telex) (665689)
- 6.25 Regional News** (523692)
- 7.00 Emmerdale** Faye is rescued by the Dingles (Telex) (s) (7775)
- 7.30 The Big Story** In the wake of the Dunblane tragedy, the results of a countrywide investigation are revealed, which shows that there are many mentally ill and unstable people licensed to carry guns in Britain (134)
- 8.00 The Bill: Minding** A dozing parent arouses London's and Keane's suspicions (6573)
- 8.30 The Freddie Star Show** Comedy does not come any broader (Telex) (6080)



Nick Berry as PC Rowan (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Heartbeat: Endangered Species** A hit and run incident leads Nick to discover a darker side of country life (1) (s) (7689)
- 10.00 ITN News** at Ten (Telex) (49573)
- 10.30 Regional News** (55405)
- 10.40 Tin's Legacy** A focus on Tim Goggs, who died a hero trying to save a mine-clearing team trapped in a burning tank in Afghanistan (33496)
- 11.00 Doctors of Evidence** (1) (568383)
- 12.35am Cue the Music: The Commitments** (1) (4221413)
- 1.35 Not Fade Away** (s) (843719)
- 2.35 Flux** (8658413)
- 3.35 Late and Loud** (1) (516992)
- 4.30 The Time... of the Strippers** (1) (70177)
- 5.00 Grass Roots** (42852)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News** (33051)

- As HTV West except:**
- 6.25pm-7.00 Wales Tonight** (82562)
- 7.30-8.00 On the Chapel Trail** (134)
- 10.40 The Sherman Plays** (755641)
- 11.10-11.40 The Big Story** (315778)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.30am Film: Between the Darkness and the Dawn** (4062196)
- 12.55pm Emmerdale** (6602738)
- 1.25-1.55 The Big Day** (8213554)
- 1.55 Home and Away** (58945757)
- 2.25 South Sense** (87373689)
- 2.55-3.20 A Country Practice** (1789979)
- 5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (5863863)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (84134)
- 10.45 On the Edge** (819776)
- 11.15 Roadrunner** (816688)
- 11.45 Prisoner Cell Block H** (599486)
- 12.35am Phoenix** (4221413)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:**
- 10.30 Film: Between the Darkness and the Dawn** (4062196)
- 12.55pm Home and Away** (5863863)
- 1.25 Just a Minute** (83213554)
- 1.55 A Country Practice** (89943186)
- 2.20 South Sense** (87374318)
- 2.50-3.20 High Road** (5262318)
- 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (5638863)
- 6.25 Central News and Weather** (633080)
- 10.40 London Bridge** (755844)
- 11.10-11.40 Revelations** (315776)
- 12.40am Central Knowledge** (4220784)
- 1.40 Not Fade Away** (8429794)
- 2.40 Flux** (8657784)
- 3.40 The Crime Hour** (5112531)

- MERIDIAN**
- As HTV West except:**
- 9.50-10.20 Sandokan** (526196) 10.30 **Worzel Gummidge** (57592) 11.00 **Doctors** and **The Three Musketeers** (5271318) 11.25 **Cross Combat** (527405) 11.55 **Dungeons and Dragons** (8649842) 12.55pm **Emmerdale** (6602738) 1.25 **Home and Away** (58213554) 1.55 **Shortland Street** (89943186) 2.20 **South Sense** (87374318) 2.50-3.20 **Doing It Up** (5262318) 5.10 **Home and Away** (5863863) 6.00 **Meridian Tonight** (370) 6.30-7.00 **Grass Roots** (950) 10.40 **Film: Prince of Darkness** (23287115) 12.35am **Phoenix** (4221413)

- S4C**
- Starts: 6.35 Star Street** (2603554) 7.00 **The Big Breakfast** (86688) 9.00 **California Dreams** (7502950) 9.25 **The Secret World of Alex Mack** (7599008) 9.55 **Hangin' with Mr Cooper** (8711202) 10.20 **Earthworm Jim** (2562487) 10.45 **Sam and Ted's Excellent Adventures** (5561689) 11.10 **Biker Mice from Mars** (8546115) 11.30 **Insatiable** (3693947) 11.50 **Dennis** (8775399) 12.05pm **Mork and Mindy** (8646912) 12.30 **Love and Marriage** (74757) 1.00 **St. Martin** (8471573) 1.35 **Blue Man Group** (1718) 1.50 **Meridian Tonight** (370) 6.30-7.00 **Grass Roots** (950) 10.40 **Film: Prince of Darkness** (23287115) 12.35am **Phoenix** (4221413)

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An unhappy Harold Wilson (9.00pm)

- 9.00 Secret History: Harold Wilson - The Final Days** The programme looks at all the rumours surrounding an increasingly paranoid Prime Minister (Telex) (s) (8931)
- 10.00 FILM: Water** (1985). Feeble Ealing comedy with a high-calibre cast including Michael Caine, Billy Connolly, Leonard Rossiter, Stephen Lupton and Valerie Perrine, who do what they can with a mediocre script. Directed by Dick Clement (Telex) (s) (318399)
- 11.55 Adult Fiction: I Share My Husband with My Sister** (Telex) (s) (853195)
- 12.40am Kids in the Hall** (1) (Telex) (s) (8058974)
- 1.10 Beavis and Butt-head** (1) (s) (4664142)
- 1.40 Let the Blood Run Free** (1) (s) (503054)
- 2.10 FILM: I've Heard the Mermaids Singing** (1987) (924897). Ends at 3.40am

- For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**
- SKY ONE**
- 7.00am** Under (8573) 9.00 **Press Your Luck** (489895) 9.30 **Love Connection** (176234) 9.45 **Open Wintry** (215198) 10.00 **Jeopardy!** (865824) 11.10 **Sally Jessy Raphael** (865047) 12.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 12.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 1.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 2.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 3.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 4.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 5.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 6.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 7.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 8.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 9.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.30 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 10.55 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.00 **Jeopardy!** (865047) 11.

## WATER SKIING 38

Britons take a giant leap for disabled sport

## SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 15 1996

## RACING 39

Ireland's champion trainer still expanding his horizons



## French pair head for Highbury

## Arsenal sign two but wait for Wenger

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

CURIOUSER and curiousest grows the turmoil around Arsenal. Yesterday, the club signed two French Legionnaires, midfield players, yet no one around Highbury was able to confirm that the supposed general, the coach Arsene Wenger, would indeed be coming to manage the team, the club, and the dire rebuilding process.

Indeed, having dismissed Bruce Rioch on Monday, Arsenal now say that they will not have his replacement installed before the FA Carling Premiership kick-off against West Ham United on Saturday. Instead, they introduced Remi Garde, 30, from Strasbourg, who was free to decide his future under the Bosman ruling, having reached the end of his contract. Potentially more exciting is Patrick Vieira, also French and, at 20, at least with his best decade ahead of him.

However, Vieira is still a curious acquisition. He surprised all of France when, at 19, he was plucked out of Cannes to sign a 4½-year contract with the all-powerful AC Milan. A change of manager in Milan, barely a game in a year for Vieira, and suddenly eight billion lire (just under £3.5 million) secures for Arsenal his potential right on the deadline for the club to sign him and Garde to meet Uefa requirements for European competition this season. Vieira had played 50 times for Cannes, and certainly has

much talked-about potential. He is big, black, and would have played for France at the Olympics this summer but for injury. He was born in Senegal in June 1976. He is almost 6ft 3in, travels on a French passport, and Milan signed him in good faith as "the new Marcel Desailly". Last November they gave him a contract worth more than £3 million to last until the end of the century. They paid the same transfer fee that Arsenal have agreed, but Vieira,

among such exalted company in Milan, was given only two league games and one Coppa Italia tie.

So who, at Highbury, could have known that he may be a fine capture, given that the one headline he drew during a season in Italy was as a passenger in a car driven by George Weah, the world player of the year, which rolled and almost killed the pair of them on a weekend off?

Of course, it has to be

Wenger. The mark of this educated man is that, through his coaching at Monaco, he could spot the talents in players such as Weah — indeed in Glenn Hoddle — and nurture those talents where others failed to do so.

So what holds back the announcement that the Frenchman will be at Arsenal to manage the French players who, if they can pass the ball with any imagination at all, will be the first signs of creative improvement in a team growing so old and so stagnant. It would appear that Arsenal are waiting for Wenger to extricate himself from his obligation as the £700,000-a-year trainer to Nagoya Grampus Eight.

This, of course, may be Arsenal doing things properly. The old-Etonian history of the club demands that they are not seen to poach another club's manager, especially one from a fledgling league such as that in Japan.

There remains some explaining to do on the home front. Peter Hill-Wood, the Arsenal chairman, while still neither confirming nor denying that they have their man, said yesterday: "The new manager has to be a first-class coach, someone to communicate with the players and the board. Football has gone international in recent seasons and that is the route we will continue to follow."

Of the departed Rioch, Hill-Wood said: "He hardly talked to us. We did not know what was going on or what his thoughts were."

Really? Communication is a two-way process. Could it be that Arsenal, by repute one of the most accomplished clubs in the world, had not known of their communication problem, or had suddenly found it so insufferable just five days before the new season?

Wenger will be a communicator all right. He comes, if that is not too presumptuous, highly recommended by the world-class players whom he has guided along the way. His education, with a degree in economics, would surely ease him into a boardroom accustomed to City talk.

Yet, the mathematics of his challenge would seem extreme. Eight players — Dixon, Winterburn, Bould, Unsworth, Platt, Keown, Wright and, by October, Adams — are 30 or more. Garde is now another one and French sources say that his form over the past two seasons has dipped, either with age or with disaffection in Strasbourg.

Added to all of this, Wenger, if and when he hits London, will face the everyday Highbury story of taking care of the vulnerabilities in Paul Merson. The 28-year-old, still with the potential to be the kind of flair player Wenger can work with, has been talking rather too much while the club is between managers.

"You'll never know how near I came to packing it in last week," Merson reportedly said. His problem was not a relapse into drink or drugs, but that he had missed a session with his counsellors.

The manager, the now departed Rioch, put Merson straight, but it is indicative of the task facing whoever grapples with Arsenal Football Club that players, seemingly directors, and supporters are all in a state of dependency. The retreat from Japan cannot come soon enough.



Habib, of Leicestershire, leaps to avoid a fierce drive by Sohaib, of Pakistan, at Grace Road yesterday. Report, page 42. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

## Masterkova shatters mile record

FROM DAVID POWELL  
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT  
IN ZURICH

SVETLANA MASTERKOVA, one of three athletes who left the Atlanta Olympics with two individual gold medals, last night set the first women's world record of the season. More than that, she achieved it in her first race over a mile.

Masterkova took more than three seconds off the record, which had stood for seven years. In Atlanta, her 800/1500 metres double went relatively unheralded compared with the 200/400 metres victories of Michael Johnson and Marie-José Pérec. However, here she left the sport in no doubt about her outstanding talent.

She set the task in the manner of Noureddine Morceli, relying on a pace-maker to stretch her away from the field in the first lap, then taking up the running for a solo effort during the last 660 yards. Lyudmila Borisova, Masterkova's fellow Russian, took them through 440 yards in what appeared to be a suicidal 61.91 seconds.

However, on the second lap, Borisova toned down the pace, taking her compatriot through 880 yards in 2min 06.66sec. At the end of the back straight on the third lap, Borisova stood aside and Masterkova reached the bell in 3:12.61.

Masterkova picked up her pace down the back straight and around the top bend and, though she slowed in the

home straight, she crossed the line in 4:12.56. The record, which had been held by Paula Ivan since 1989, was 4:15.61.

Masterkova received a \$50,000 (about £35,000) bonus and a kilogram of gold, worth \$12,000, for her world record.

Jonathan Ridgeon rejected the greater financial rewards of running in the 400 metres hurdles A race to appear, by choice, in the B race instead, and reaped the benefit on the clock — if not in the pocket. Ridgeon opted for lane eight in the support event in preference to the tight bend and built-up curb he would have had to negotiate running in lane one in the main race.

Ridgeon's reward was the fastest time of his comeback

and almost a personal best. He finished a close second to Eric Thomas, of the United States, recording 48.79sec compared with the winner's 48.69.

The silver medal-winner in the sprint hurdles at the 1987 world championships, Ridgeon, now 29, is the all-time British No 4 over the one-lap hurdles. Only Kriss Akabusi, David Hemery and Alan Pascoe have run quicker than the 48.73sec that Ridgeon clocked in 1992.

Ridgeon retired after the World Cup in 1992, his career seemingly brought to an end by Achilles tendon troubles. However, this year, after four operations, he returned to competition, initially having resumed running mainly to keep fit.

Typical of his luck, he enjoyed uninterrupted training and racing until just before the Olympics, when he strained a calf. After his first round, he was eliminated. "It was 50-50 whether I was going to run so what I am doing here, frustratingly, is what I thought I would have achieved at the Games," Ridgeon said.

Surprisingly, for an athlete who has run 24 hurdles races already this season, Ridgeon added: "I have got a lot more running in me. When I came back this season, I had no idea what time to expect. Since I started training again I have had only one problem and it just happened to be in the week of the Olympics."



Jarrett: poor season

## Curcic and Quinn move back into Premiership spotlight

By PETER BALL

ASTON VILLA and Sunderland made the most significant moves on a busy day of transfer activity yesterday. Villa agreed a fee of £4 million with Bolton Wanderers for Sasa Curcic while Niall Quinn renewed his working relationship with Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, in signing from Manchester City. Meanwhile, Queens Park Rangers, relegated from the FA Carling Premiership along with Bolton and City, warned Leeds United off their prize asset, Trevor Sinclair.

Villa's capture of Curcic, the Yugoslavian midfielder player, represents a club record fee. "It's an incredible sum," Brian Little, the Villa manager, said, "but Sasa is one of a group of three or four players whom I have always seen as potential Aston Villa players."

"I've spoken to Bolton on and off for six or eight months about him. It's one of those

things where you wait for the phone call, and the go-ahead has been given."

With his skill and eagerness to run at defenders, Curcic quickly became a hero at Burnden Park but relegation made his departure look inevitable. He will have to wait for a new work permit and will miss the start of the season.

Quinn came cheaper, Sunderland finally agreeing to meet Manchester City's asking price of £1.3 million after stalling for some weeks. Quinn had still to agree his personal terms last night, but he was delighted to move back into the Premiership, particularly to work with Reid. "I had my best spell under Peter at Molineux Road," Quinn said yesterday. "I said when he was sacked there that he will be a great manager, and I'm looking forward to playing for him again."

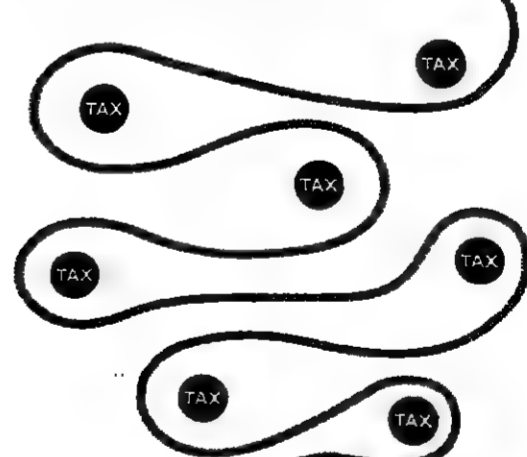
"It's a huge career move for

me. I'd been trying to ignore all the hype and the buzz of the new Premiership season because I was a bit jealous, and it's thrilling to be given the chance to play up there again."

City meanwhile are giving a trial to the unlikely-named Elvis Brankovic, a member of the Croatia squad in the European championship. Brankovic, whose mother was a Presley rather than a Costello fan, is a tall central defender who is out of contract after ending his spell with Munich 1860.

One transfer apparently not going through is that of Sinclair to Leeds. "I'm sick of hearing speculation about Trevor," Clive Berlin, Rangers' chief executive, said. "I've written to Leeds asking them to desist from publicly speculating about our players, and if they continue to do so, we'll report them to the FA."

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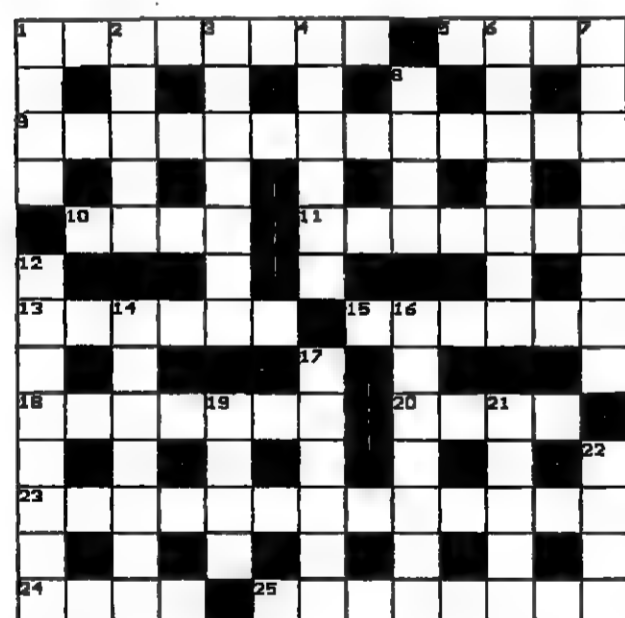
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## ACROSS

- 1 Old fire-retardant (8)
- 2 Lorry diesel fuel (4)
- 3 Pedestrian right-of-way (5,8)
- 10 Greenish-blue; sounds like plant shoot (4)
- 11 Whip a harasser (7)
- 12 Trifling (6)
- 15 Entrust; peripatetic (6)
- 18 Patron saint of music (7)
- 20 Sprint; parachute (4)
- 23 Retirement income (3,3,7)
- 24 Meat-substitute bean (4)
- 25 Sweet on stick (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Timber-dressing tool (4)
- 2 Policeman (slang) (5)
- 3 Nut-adjusting tool (7)
- 4 Female giant (6)
- 6 Concise witicism (7)
- 7 Little picture, sketch (8)
- 8 Capital of Norway (4)
- 12 Deceptively plausible (8)
- 14 With clarity (7)
- 16 Service book; number like first (7)
- 17 Ancient poetess of Lesbos (6)
- 19 Company emblem (4)
- 21 Be perfunctory (5)
- 22 Break cleanly; speak irritably (4)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

**SOLUTION TO NO 860**  
ACROSS: 1 Fastidious 9 Amaleur 10 Sofia 11 Skye 12 Waterloo 14 Normal 15 Bedouin 18 Militant 20 Cruz 22 Arson 23 Gordian 24 Shoot-range  
DOWN: 2 Anew 3 Thread 4 Dishevel 5 Official 6 Shadow-boxing 7 Ways and means 8 Lawyer 13 Marinet 16 Adroit 17 Enigma 19 Lasso 21 Drug



In today's Times a four-page entry guide for Interactive Team Football

# New poaching of Kenya elephants provokes outrage

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

CONSERVATIONISTS yesterday reacted with outrage to an upsurge in illegal hunting and poaching of semi-tame elephants from Amboseli National Park in Kenya. They also condemned Dr David Western, the director of Kenya Wildlife Services, for an "inadequate response" to the problem.

The latest victim was discovered less than a mile inside Tanzania yesterday as Kenya Wildlife Services held a celebration to mark its fiftieth anniversary. Jake, who was 31, was shot dead and his tusks were removed. Footprints leading from the carcass indicated that he had been shot by local poachers.

Another elephant, identified as Beach Ball, was found dead close to the Amboseli park headquarters two days before. The increase in the killing of Amboseli's big tuskers, some of which are more than 50 years old and have been

studied at close quarters for 25 years, has taken place despite a hunting ban on elephants in an eight-mile-wide buffer zone in Tanzania. The zone, which runs along Amboseli's borders, was set up after the unorthodox hunting of five elderly bulls was exposed by *The Times* in 1994. The elephants, which were accustomed to people, were slaughtered by white professional hunters, charging \$20,000 (£12,900) a kill.

Since then, up to 11 other male elephants have been killed, eight of them in the past six weeks, and two others are missing. Three females, Qaria, Genette and Zazwa, are also assumed to have been killed as their calves are being fostered by other females. The deaths of matriarchs is particularly worrying, researchers say, because they teach younger animals how to find water and food.

The news of the killings has

incensed conservationists in Kenya. Many blame Dr Western for reacting too slowly to the problem.

His predecessor, Dr Richard Leakey, condemned Dr Western. "I am extremely disappointed and angry about this."

"For millions of shillings to be budgeted for the fiftieth anniversary celebrations while field staff are inadequately resourced is outrageous. These bulls are very important, not only scientifically, but because they are the last of the really big tuskers that people can come to see in East Africa," said Dr Leakey.

He said that the wildlife service had kept details of the Amboseli elephant killings and poaching elsewhere "secret, like in the worst days of poaching in Kenya."

Senior wardens at the wildlife service headquarters did not appear to have heard about the latest killings yesterday.



Beach Ball, right, the elephant found dead at the hands of poachers two days ago, with Lexi, another member of the Amboseli park herd

Jake's carcass was discovered by a researcher from the Save the Elephant charity. Iain Douglas Hamilton, its director, said that the tuskers often wandered into Tanzania in search of food before the mating season.

"These killings are totally illegal and some look like they

have been carried out by professional hunters," he said. Other sources said there had been reports of a Masai poacher operating on land next to Amboseli who had been tracked by rangers with the wildlife service's anti-poaching unit.

Dr Cynthia Moss, whose

film *Echo of the Elephants: The Next Generation* helped to transform thinking about the animals, said the death of Beach Ball had caused her great grief. "He was one of my favourite elephants," she said. One of Dr Moss's revelations was that elephants "mourn" their dead.

She said Beach Ball, who was known locally as Mjomba, the Swahili word for uncle, was so tame that children could approach him. "They would roll tyres towards him, and he would roll them back," she said. British conservationists were dismayed yesterday by

news of the renewed poaching. Sir David Attenborough said: "If these elephants can be poached, then what chance is there for those less protected?" "They are the most famous elephants, known to millions of people through television programmes. It is dismal news."



Hashimoto: sent funds to Philippine women

## Apology by Japan to war sex slaves

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO AND ABBY TAN IN MANILA

JAPAN'S Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, yesterday expressed his country's remorse for degrading Asian women by forcing them into sexual slavery for Japanese soldiers before and during the Second World War.

In a letter delivered to former sex slaves in the Philippines, together with compensation money, Mr Hashimoto admitted the involvement of the former Japanese Imperial Army in setting up brothels for troops advancing across Asia. Historians estimate that up to 200,000 women, mostly from the Korean peninsula, were forced into sexual servitude.

Three hundred surviving "comfort women", as they are known in Japan, are being offered two million yen (£12,000) each from a nominally private fund set up by the Government. Tokyo is afraid that direct government compensation would unleash a flood of claims from other victims of Japan's wartime aggression, including thousands of forced labourers and prisoners of war.

Some former sex slaves in South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines are reluctant to accept the money, insisting on direct compensation from the Japanese Government.

The first three payments were made yesterday, on the eve of the 51st anniversary of Japan's surrender in the war. Makiko Arima, vice-president of the Asian Women's Fund of Japan, handed the money to Maria Rosa Henson, 68, Rufina Fernandez, 69, and Atanazia Cortez, 73, at a ceremony in a Manila hotel. The Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines, Hiroyuki Yoshida, gave them copies of Mr Hashimoto's letter - the most contrite apology from Japan to the sex slaves so far.

## WORLD SUMMARY

### India halts progress on nuclear ban

Geneva: India has prevented the forwarding of a global nuclear test-ban treaty to the full Conference on Disarmament, Western diplomats said.

Asked after a closed committee meeting if the Indian representative had said she could not accept transmission of the text, Stephen Ledogar, of America said: "Yes, they did, just as they had last night in the informal meeting."

Arundhati Ghose, the Indian delegate, made no immediate comment after leaving the committee meeting, chaired by Jaap Ramaker, of The Netherlands. The committee was reconvening last night to draft its report. (Reuters)

### Israel to control Hebron security

Jerusalem: Israel is planning to retain security control over the West Bank city of Hebron, effectively declaring that the Palestinians cannot be trusted to protect the town's minority Jewish population numbering about 400 (Ross Dunn writes). The plan, due to be presented to the Government this week, would require the rewriting of a peace accord signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation which Binyamin Netanyahu, the right-wing Israeli Prime Minister, had promised to uphold.

### Kitchen hand in poisons arrest

Bombay: A young kitchen helper was arrested yesterday in India's worst case of food poisoning as the death toll mounted to 46, with nine patients dying in Bombay hospitals after battling for life for nearly a week. At least 45 others are in serious condition. Blood samples of victims, who suffered giddiness, aches and vomiting, are being analysed in London. Seeds of a white *Datura* (thorn apple) weed are suspected. (Reuters)

### Sacked minister at ANC hearing

Johannesburg: In the biggest crisis the African National Congress has faced since taking power, Bantu Holomisa, the sacked Environment Minister, appeared before a disciplinary hearing to answer charges linked to corruption allegations against senior ANC leaders (Inigo Gilmore writes). If found guilty, he is likely to be expelled or suspended from the ANC.

## Karachi march fired on

FROM ZAHID HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

GUNMEN killed at least 12 people and wounded 11 when they opened fire on an Independence Day rally organised by a Sunni Muslim organisation in Karachi's New Town district yesterday.

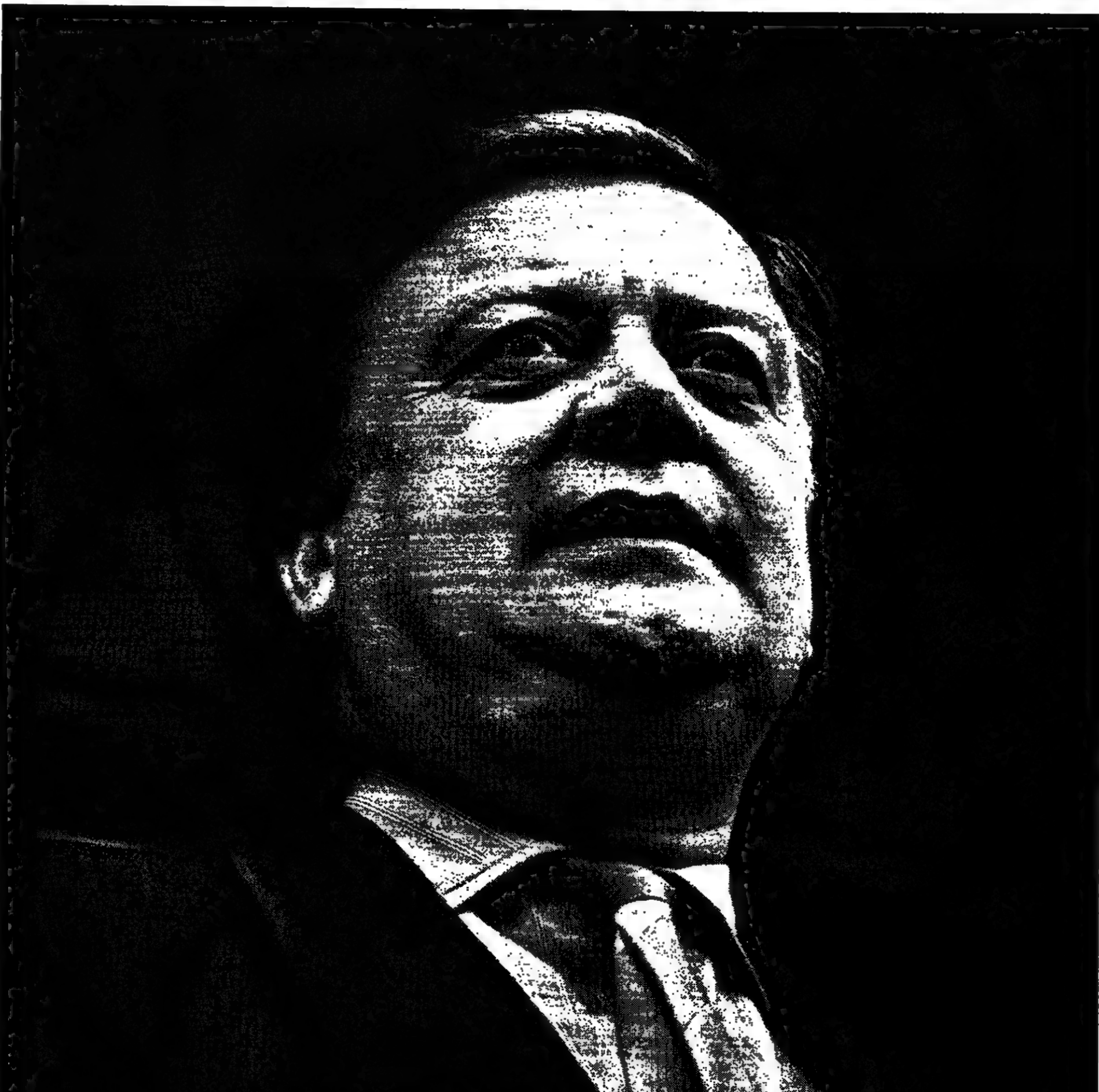
More than 300 marchers were attacked with machine-guns in front of a mosque. Police said the assailants were riding on two cars.

The rally was organised by Sipah-e-Shaba (Soldiers of the

Prophet Muhammad) to celebrate the 49th anniversary of Pakistan's independence.

Police suspect that a rival Shia Muslim group, Dhirk Shiba, was involved in the attack, which was apparently carried out to avenge the murder of two Shia Muslims by Sipah-e-Shaba in Pakistan's western province of Punjab last week.

The groups have been locked in bloody street wars in Pakistan for the last few years, resulting in hundreds of deaths.



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**Dr Thomas Stuttford** on the latest thinking on baby delivery; plus the difficulties of predicting the behaviour of former psychiatric patients, fresh anxiety over food poisoning, a standardised approach to asthma, and a new drive to vaccinate children

## How mums can pass the tennis test

In the introduction to this week's *Woman's Hour* programme on confinements, a hospital delivery was portrayed as a dehumanising experience, with the conduct of the labour determined by high-tech machinery.

In contrast, it implied that the patients who elected to stay at home would have their babies easily and safely and be surrounded by loving relatives. Would that this was so. A normal delivery can only be diagnosed in retrospect and the truth is that in Britain the safest place for the baby and mother is a well-run hospital labour ward.

In the general practice where I started the nearest major hospital was 20 miles away, but even so 80 per cent of babies were booked for delivery at home. Although we made an inspired guess and weeded out those mothers who obviously were at high risk, neither I nor the midwife knew what would happen until the labour was over.

Many of our patients lived in outlying villages. As it would take too long to get to them in the event of a disaster occurring in the later stages of labour, I spent many nights sleeping on the sofas in the sitting-room, for once at the ready, while the woman went through the early stages of

labour upstairs. As the Radio 4 programme implied, home deliveries — once the baby was born and crying — were often uproarious family occasions. But not all of them were conducted in total harmony.

On one occasion a baby showed signs of distress which made delivery a matter of urgency, but the mother was too upset to keep still to have the necessary local anaesthetic block before the forceps could be applied. Before I could stop



him, the husband took command. He delivered a quick left and right which could not disgrace Mohammed Ali and thereafter the woman lay very still. The baby was delivered safely.

The primary objective of any delivery must be that it should be achieved without cost to the mother's health and that the baby should be healthy. Standards are forever increasing and, not surprisingly, women are no longer happy to have survived. Now they expect to be as fit and well as they were before they became pregnant.

Mr Stuart Stanton, of St Georges Hospital, London, is one of a new breed of gynaecologists. He is a consultant urogynaecologist, a gynaecologist who makes a speciality of dealing with bladder and rectal problems. The sub-speciality is assured of a

ready supply of patients, for research at St Georges has shown that 70 per cent of women are still incontinent of urine three months after delivery of a baby and 4 per cent are incontinent of faeces.

The situation improves during subsequent months but relapse occurs later and if the condition is untreated about a third of women who have had children will have some stress incontinence when, for instance, playing tennis, when they are older.

The origins of the problem of incontinence after delivery lies in the damage done to the woman's pelvic floor during labour. The pelvic floor is an efficient shell of muscles that supports the bladder, uterus, vagina, and rectum. During a difficult delivery the nerves to these muscles can be damaged and the resulting injury may cause lasting social inconvenience.

Research workers at St Georges are now investigating the possibility which women have pelvic floors which are likely to suffer in labour. It is hoped that the research will make it possible to offer those who are at greatest risk during natural labour an alternative form of delivery, which will spare the nerves to the pelvic floor.

At St Georges the clinic is run jointly by Mr Stanton and



Damage done in labour can cause some mothers to have stress incontinence when playing tennis

Mr Devinder Kumar, a rectum surgeon, and they see patients together while they decide on the best forms of treatment. Results in those patients who have needed surgery are most encouraging. Ninety per cent of the women overcome their incontinence and even 15 years later 80 per cent are still symptom-free and enjoying their tennis.

Despite the disadvantages of Caesarean section, a re-

search study shows that many gynaecologists when pregnant opt for it without medical justification. In Mr Stanton's opinion this is partly the result of anxiety over incontinence. He hopes that when all the research at St Georges is complete it will only be those who have a demonstrable risk of pelvic floor trouble who will choose to have surgery, and the rest will entrust themselves to the midwives.

### Asthma at a snail's pace

ASTHMA can be induced by a wide variety of agents. One of the most common is the housemite, a microscopic organism which lives in the carpets, curtains and blankets of most modern, well-heated houses.

Recent research in Italy has shown that many people whose asthma attacks are induced by the housemite may also suffer if they eat a hearty meal of snails. Careful immunological studies have suggested that it is the housemite which sensitises gourmets to snails. Investigations have not shown that being allergic to snails necessarily makes people sensitive to the housemite.

THE way to treat asthma is now being standardised in Britain. As a result the number of deaths from acute attacks is falling, although the number of patients with the disease is on the increase.

One source of continuing disaster has been highlighted recently by chest physicians. There has been doubt about the length of time the patient, who has had a serious attack of asthma, should continue to take the oral steroids prescribed to control it. Many doctors only give them for seven days, but the general view is that a 14-day course is not only more effective, but much safer in the long term.

The British Thoracic Association is also expected to publish new recommendations on the treatment of asthma in the near future. It is predicted that they will suggest treatment of an acute attack of asthma with inhaled steroids should start with a high dosage, and thereafter be reduced once control of the attack is achieved.

THE campaign to rid the country of measles, mumps and German measles (rubella), is proving to be very effective. Despite the success of the immunisation programme, *Pulse* magazine reports that the Department of Health still fears a possibility of a build-up in susceptible children between the ages of four and six, which could lead to an epidemic.

### Measles campaign

To prevent this from happening, an amended programme of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) is to start this autumn. Family doctors will be encouraged to give a second dose of MMR to pre-school children of the appropriate age, not immunised in the campaign of 1994.

Side effects from the injections are comparatively rare and only occasionally have serious consequences been reported. On the other hand, measles can be lethal and frequently resulted in lasting disability. Mumps can cause lifelong infertility, and rubella was responsible for many foetal abnormalities.



Honey can be a health risk for children under a year

## Fears of botulism spread to nursery

TO an older generation the diagnosis of botulism has a sinister ring. The organism, *Clostridium botulinum*, was responsible for the production of the neurotoxin that paralysed the nervous system after deep, contaminating wounds on the Western Front in the First World War. During the 1939-1945 war it became a cause of anxiety on the home front when tins of food, which had been hoarded, became contaminated if the meat or fish that they contained had been infected with *Clostridium botulinum*.

Food poisoning in infants has led to a ban on honey for babies

In food-borne botulism, the effects of damage to the central nervous system are preceded by vomiting, diarrhoea and severe abdominal pain. Botulism isn't confined to those serving in a battle zone, or those who have just eaten meat from a rusting tin. A famous outbreak occurred in Scotland during the 1920s

after duck pâté had become infected. In 1978 there was another epidemic in Britain, which had been caused by contaminated tinned salmon. In America home-canned vegetables are the usual culprits behind an outbreak, whereas on the Continent it is sausages that are reviewed with criticism. The term botulism is derived from the Latin for a sausage, *botulus*, so it seems that even the advancing legionsnaires had to contend with the problem.

Anxieties about botulism have now spread to the nursery. Usually food-borne botulism is related to the ingestion of toxins that have already been produced by the organism. However, in one group of children, infants under a year, the guts are capable of acting as a medium, which is suitable for the spores to germinate, after which the *Clostridium botulinum* multiplies until it colonises the gut. In these children, the attack isn't because they have ingested the toxin but is a consequence of the production of it in their guts, which is then absorbed.

Infant botulism is very rare, particularly in Britain but it is rather more common in America. In America a common cause of infant botulism is from spores that have been ingested with honey. As a consequence of the American cases, Sir Kenneth Calman, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, has written to all doctors to warn them of this unlikely hazard to infant life. Although there has been no proven case in Britain of honey causing infantile botulism it is a potentially serious health risk.

Therefore the British Honey Importers and Packers Association have joined the Department of Health to issue a joint recommendation that babies under a year shouldn't be given any. Honey for tea might have been an admirable treat in Gloucestershire but in future any nanny will have to reserve it for her older children, and for adults, whose guts have matured and in whom the spores of *Clostridium botulinum* have no chance of surviving.

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## Does destiny's destination still matter?

Magnus Linklater says that Scots should care about their symbols of nationhood — and where they lie

It was, said John Major when he announced it, a symbolic gesture of the greatest significance. The return to Scotland of the Stone of Destiny from its ancient resting place beneath the Coronation Chair in Westminster Abbey would restore this "most ancient symbol of Scottish kingship... to its historic homeland". The stone, he said, "had a special place in the hearts of Scots".

The reaction among the Scots themselves was curiously flat. The Prime Minister's motives were subjected to some sceptical analysis; the odd political insult was traded; even the welcoming remarks came across in that rather dismissive Scottish manner which actually means: "What took you so long?"

Still, as Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said, it was an opportunity for the people themselves to express their views on where they wanted this emblem of Scottish nationhood to have its final resting place. He invited submissions. This week marks the deadline, and the Scottish Office has been sifting through the answers. There has not, it seems, been an overwhelming response. Various worthy organisations have had their say, the odd peer of the realm has chipped in with suggestions, the Historiographer Royal has pronounced, and there has been a scattering of views, some eccentric, some sensible, from private citizens — but not that many.

Compared to the hysteria that greeted its theft from Westminster Abbey in 1950, the reaction has been apathetic at best. For a piece of rock tinged with the blood of Scottish warriors under the ages, it has been a definite anti-climax.

Perhaps we have lost faith in symbols. I have yet to hear that swords have leapt from their scabbards to prevent the latest sacrilege, namely a plan to dig up the heart of Robert the Bruce from its burial place in Melrose Abbey. The idea is to test the lead casket in which it is interred to see whether it is authentic. Quite where this will get us is unclear.

I cannot help feeling that Sir James, the Black Douglas, who out of the heart from Bruce's body in 1329 and set off on a pilgrimage to take it to the Holy Land, would not have been pleased. "Now pass thou onward as thou wert wont, and Douglas will follow or die!" he cried as he hurled the heart and its casket into the thick of the battle before being cut down by a Moorish army in Castle. He said nothing about wanting Historic Scotland to dig it up again once it had been finally buried.

Here again, I am afraid to report, apathy appears to hold sway, although we must watch the letters pages of *The Scotsman*, where Scottish swords are still occasionally unsheathed.

But if the symbols of past struggles no longer excite us, what does? For most people, the concept of kingship, which both stone and heart repre-

sent, has been drained of meaning, despite the Prime Minister's claims. Nationalists in Scotland are embarrassed by its Tories' tip-toeing gingerly around it; the fact that Labour is being asked by the Fabian Society to review the monarchy as "the last taboo", and to invite Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber to compose a new national anthem, suggests that it may no longer be taken seriously by the party which could form the next government.

All this would have troubled Walter Bagehot, who wrote that the constitution could hold the people together only if it contained two elements: "First, those which excite and preserve the reverence of the population — the dignified parts, if I may so call them; and next the efficient parts — those by which, in fact, works and rules." It seems as if the dignified parts are in need of some attention, to say nothing of the efficient parts. So perhaps the whole edifice really may be crumbling at last.

A better explanation, however, is the one suggested by Sir David Steel, when he said that most people in Scotland "want not just the symbol but the substance of the return of democratic control". Mr Major's announcement, intended as an acknowledgment of Scottish aspirations, was dropped into a political vacuum. A relic, wholly associated with the exercise of kingly power, was being returned to a nation which no longer exercises that power, or anything like it. Since it came unaccompanied by political change, it was widely seen as an empty gesture, not to say a piece of political opportunism.

That does not mean, however, that it should simply be ignored. The stone is important, as any truly historic relic is, and its fate should excite interest, passion even. It is not just a king's seat, it represents the continuity of a nation, a memorial to its past, and an emblem for its future achievements.

The stone deserves a hallowed place, but one that is independent of religious factions. My own proposal is Edinburgh Castle, as others have suggested, but not the room where the Scottish regalia are stored. That is a tourist trap, stage-bit and sham of Bagehot's "reverence" — a sort of "crown jewels experience".

Instead, it should go to the great National War Memorial in the castle, a building dedicated not just to Scotland's war dead, but to all its people. It is not a chapel, but it has great dignity and an almost palpable sense of Scotland's martial past. Through its floor appear the living rock, and it is a physical part of the Palace Close.

If destiny means anything, this is where the stone should be — almost literally linked to Scotland's history.

As for Bruce's heart: leave it alone.

Inner-city vicars like Father Gray are too valuable to be driven out by violence, says Robert Runcie

English people have only the most blurred notions of ecclesiastical structures and titles; but they do generally recognise "the vicar" as "someone who does things on behalf of others". There is something affectionate about "Hello, Vicar." There is something affirming about "Now we have a lady vicar." "Murder of a vicar outside his church" was a headline that deeply shocked us, touching off many an editorial or *Thought for the Day*.

There is a great deal of talk about "care in the community", but vicars are among the few people professionally concerned about it who actually live in their community. For understandable reasons, doctors, teachers, nurses, social workers tend to commute. The urban vicarage continues to be a sanctuary in a hostile world. If there is no one to fall back on, there is always the vicar. Here is rare continuity with the Benedictine traditions of *stabilitas* and hospitality which gave Christian life in this country its original shape. *Stabilitas* refers to the one who remains and who is there to serve a community. Hospitality reminds us of a central thrust of the Christian Gospel.

The idea is hard to sustain. It makes heavy demands, but it makes the vicar more accessible than those many public officials who can rarely be met face to face and then only by appointment and in office hours. I

## Reflections on the death of a vicar

recall two visits I made in the 1980s: one to a mining village during the miners' strike and one to a deprived inner-city area in Liverpool. During both I was encouraged by the extraordinarily intimate connection between the vicar and the mixed bag of parishioners that I met. Here was the Church's ministry at its best: unpublicised, uncommissioned, but exceedingly important. For it seems to me that beneath the surface of the most placid-seeming parish or district there is always a hidden ferment. Individuals and families are continually being threatened or uplifted, disappointed or delighted over matters which are of importance to them — from the birth of a child to the death of a parent, from a quarrel with a neighbour to a promotion at work, from the onset or cure of illness to the loss or finding of a job.

Such personal matters are the very stuff and substance of human concern, and in the response of people to

them there is always (implicitly or explicitly) a slight shift in their religious attitude — a slight movement either towards or away from God. The vicar who is close enough to many of these points and times of sensitivity, and who is available and attentive when and where they occur, does a work of extreme importance. For it is widely believed (rightly or wrongly) that the attitude of a vicar is a living symbol — faint and imperfect but the only living symbol we have — of the attitude of God Himself. Therefore his presence and attentiveness, or his absence and seeming indifference, is likely to affect a person at a deep level at such times of acute sensitivity. The movement of a human soul or a whole human family towards or away from God may well be determined by the "minute particular" of whether the vicar calls or does not call on a parishioner who is gravely ill, whether

he is accessible or not to an unhappy teenager or a proud parent. Much of the typical work of vicars is too particular to be the subject of general discussion and too intimate to be made known in books or journals or investigated by research students. So the names of outstanding vicars tend to be less well known than those who work in the academic field or become bishops. But the effect and influence of their work is, I dare say, much deeper. For the attitude of most people to God is determined, for good or ill, not by general ideas or intellectual formulations, but by concrete signs and evidences of the nearness of God in these commonplace yet sensitive situations.

Increasingly, we look for people of character to undertake such a vocation. We look first for faith, and with it faithfulness, the capacity to go on when the going gets tough. We look for evidence of a life of prayer, because prayer is required of a vicar.

both to sustain the loneliness of the job and as a sign of the way he is pointing others. We look for commitment to people, to console the strong and the weak, the gifted and the deprived. We look for a willingness to live sacrificially: to make do with a not very appealing income, to work long hours without obvious reward. We look for those who can inspire without dominating, whose model is that of the good shepherd rather than the successful graduate of the management training school.

We will grieve for Christopher Gray and sympathise with his family and parish; but in time we may come to say: "He was a good man, but he should have been more streetwise." We may include in clergy training more attention to prudence in the inner city: get the Church Commissioners to look at the security of vicarages. That all sounds very sensible.

But we should be failing him if we did not attend to precious principles in our Christian heritage which belong to no one denomination, but which are being eroded or jettisoned or represented as inappropriate for a much better managed church, or a more vulnerable and quite fragile secular society.

Lord Runcie was Archbishop of Canterbury, 1980-91.

## No EMU without a superstate

Once again, Europe should listen to Denmark: the single currency is about democracy

Democracy is the real European issue. As the German Constitutional Court has already found, the structures of the European Union are not in themselves democratic. Such democracy as exists in Europe is derived from the election of the 15 national governments, not from the European Parliament, which does not effectively control the Commission, let alone the Council of Ministers. The German Constitutional Court still holds itself to be superior to the European Court, in contrast to our House of Lords which accepts a subordinate role; the German court has expressed its concern that constitutional developments in Europe could come into conflict with the requirement of the German basic law that Germany should be a democratic state. That is one advantage of a written constitution: in Britain our democracy can be eroded without effective appeal to the courts.

Now the Danish Supreme Court has joined the German Constitutional Court in holding that the question of whether the Maastricht Treaty violates the national constitution is one that the Danish courts can consider. In 1994 a lower court refused to allow the case to be heard, but the Supreme Court has overruled them on appeal. Democracy is also a central issue in the public debate over the single currency. Obviously the single currency represents in itself a transfer of power from the national parliaments to the putative European Central Bank, which will be governed by nominated and unaccountable officials.

At present, national governments still have the power to determine monetary and exchange policy, except in so far as they or their national constitutions have handed that

function over to an independent national central bank. In the case of Germany, the independence of the Bundesbank is guaranteed by the constitution and could be removed only if the constitution were changed. Under the single currency, European interest and exchange rates would cease to be under any democratic influence at all. The creation of an independent European Central Bank implies that the individual democracies cannot be trusted with the value of money, but that unelected officials can be.

Repeated experience shows that monetary and budget policies only work when they work together. In post-war British financial history, there have been times when these policies were at variance with each other. In each case the looser policy undermined the tighter one. Yet if the European Central Bank's control of the single currency has to be supported by control over national budgets, that would mean the whole of economic policy would have to be transferred to the Bank. As public expenditure decisions underlie every other type of political decision — including welfare, social services, defence and foreign policy — such a transfer would leave European democracy with hardly any power at all.

In the August issue of the *Gerrard & National Economic Review*, Professor Tim Congdon lays down what he regards as the essential conditions for the success of a single currency.

The EU can have a single currency if (1) it is prepared to make the changeover from a multiplicity of national legal tenders to a single European-wide legal tender on a single day with barely all prices and contracts redenominated immediately, and all redenominations complete within a few weeks; (2) all monetary policy levers are concentrated in the

Central Bank, which is the sole issuer of the new legal tender; (3) the nations of the EU surrender ultimate control of taxation and government expenditure to a new central government which has fiscal sovereignty over all of them; and (4) this new central government has the power and the resources — with expenditure probably running into many billions of Ecu/Euro — to compensate the private sector for losses from contractual upheaval and the costs of carrying out the currency changeover.

None of these propositions is non-controversial, though I find Professor Congdon's arguments for them very persuasive. If he is right, the choice before Europe is not whether to have a single currency, but whether to have a single government. Beyond that, there is the question of how to establish a democratic basis for such a single government.

Why does Professor Congdon think that you cannot separate a single government from a single currency? He argues that there is, in fact,

"no example in history of significant sovereign states sharing a single currency". He puts this down to what economists call "free rider" problems. Budget deficits and short-term financing would both put inflationary pressures on the European single currency. "The larger the budget deficit, the higher the proportion (the national governments) can capture for the benefit of their own citizens without paying for it by taxation," he writes. "The higher the proportion of short-term monetary financing of the budget deficit, the cheaper the cost of debt service to governments."

If there is one currency, but 15 governments, each of these governments will have a "free rider" temptation to adopt budget and financing policies which undermine the currency. Most German commentators have already seen this danger coming, partly because the German taxpayer would have to pay most of the cost. Whether



this inner core might for some years steam in convoy, with governments solving the "one currency, several governments" problem by behaving as though they were one government although they were not. Eventually, this might well break down: it would be under pressure from the beginning, but it is not inconceivable as a temporary solution. It would not be democratic, as the real influence on economic policy would be the bureaucracies of the Commission, the Bank and the core governments.

The third choice is European democracy on the parliamentary model, making a frank transfer of power from national parliaments to the European Parliament and creating a European government dependent on a parliamentary majority. The Commission would then become the civil service of this government and ministers, supported by a parliamentary majority, would replace the present Commissioners. The Council of Ministers might be transformed into some sort of Senate, but would lose its main powers.

The fourth choice would be to adopt the American model and directly elect the President of Europe, who would take over many of the powers of the Council of Ministers. He would dominate, or actually appoint, the Commission and would face the European Parliament and Court as a separate executive authority. These third and fourth choices would certainly require a new European Treaty, would be subject to referendums in many countries, presumably including Britain, and would be challenged in the courts, above all in Germany and Denmark.

The two democratic choices might or might not be good for the people of Europe. They certainly go far beyond present state of public opinion in most European countries.

The probability is that the democratic deficit of the European Union will not be tackled, but that the single currency will be attempted by a small group of countries. That will make the shortfall of European democracy more obvious and more damaging. The trouble with Europe is that the people do not trust the bureaucrats, and the bureaucrats certainly do not trust the people.

## Stop press

LORD'S cricket ground is to close its traditional print shop beneath the Grand Stand where scorecards have been produced using hand-set type for 70 years, despite protests from MCC members.

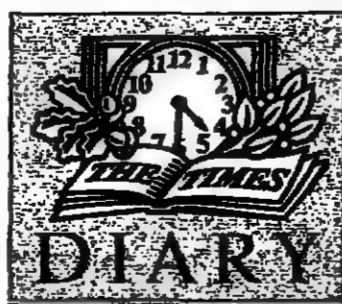
The first scorecard was printed at Lord's in 1848 from a tent and the present room was opened in 1926. But MCC has decided that, as part of the redevelopment of the Grand

Stand at the end of the season, its ancient Letterpress will now be replaced by a desktop publishing arrangement.

Master printer Vince Miller, who as the longest-serving employee at Lord's set in type the names of Cowdrey, Laker, May and Wardle in the 1950s, will retire at the end of the season along with his small team of assistants.

"It's very sad. The members have been up in arms," remarked Lieutenant-Colonel John Stephenson, who retired as secretary of MCC in 1993. "The old press is part of Lord's. I know one has to move with the times, but you have to think of tradition and that is what makes Lord's unique."

In a carefully-worded circular, sent by supporters of the print shop as a dissent no-ball, the MCC told members that its committee has decided "that a printing department will continue at Lord's producing a regularly updated scorecard. The Letterpress will also be retained." The circular fails to explain that the printing will be computerised and the Letterpress is destined to become an exhibit in the Lord's museum.



● This year's pilgrimage to Lourdes cannot have been the happiest for Frances Shand Kydd, colourful mother to the Princess of Wales. Her journey took her past an endless succession of posters promoting a French magazine. It promised lurid new revelations about her daughter's private life.

### Rogue mail

LABOUR backbenchers are perhaps preparing too assiduously for a Tony Blair government. Paul Flynn, the trenchant MP for Newport W who wants cannabis legalised and the monarchy abolished, has mailed 250 colleagues with his suggestion of a 1996 committee of backbenchers along the lines of the Tories' 1922 Committee. Apparently covering all eventualities, he also sent one to Don Foster, Liberal Democrat MP for Bath. "I can't bear it. It's terrible," he grizzled. "I got the wrong Foster. It should have gone to Derek Foster, not Don. But one howler out of 250 isn't bad I suppose. Chris Patten once sent me a letter asking for money for the Conservative Party. 'The new committee may look like another Labour split but it really isn't about that.'"

### County down

THOMAS HARDY'S Dorset is trying bitterly to repair its rustic image after being rejected as "too twee" by film-makers producing *Jude* based on his novel *Jude the Obscure*, which stars Kate Winslet. The British director, Michael Winterbottom, has chosen New Zealand and the Yorkshire Dales as its setting. Too many powerlines, dual carriageways and television aerials and an absence of scope for "big shots" forced the film-makers to abandon hope of true Hardy country. "Dorset is not twee, it is rustic, and though we do have dual carriageways we don't have a motorway," bleats the tourism officer.

● Barry Field, the bungee-jumping MP for the Isle of Wight — no

shrinking violet when it comes to publicity — is receiving medical treatment for a strain in his arm which he suggests has been brought on by shaking hands with too many constituents.

### Duelling dons

THE distinguished historian Lord Dacre has used a book review to take a gratuitous swipe at his old enemy and fellow academic at Peterhouse, Cambridge, Maurice Cowling.

Dacre, or Hugh Trevor-Roper,

was Master of Peterhouse when Cowling, guru to Michael Portillo, historian of modern England and the college's most powerful don at the time, took against him for his whiggish outlook.

The feud has run for many years and the latest dig comes in Dacre's critique of Lady Antonia Fraser's *The Gunpowder Plot in The Literary Review*. Guy Fawkes, notes the naughty peer, had a Jesuit cousin, "one Cowling, no doubt a sinister fellow." Cowling was not answering calls yesterday, doubtless preparing an acid retort. Dacre simply said: "What an interesting coincidence you have spotted."

### Ex-parrot

A KEEN shot the Duke of Westminster but, by his own admission in next month's *Field* magazine, a trigger-happy peer. Recalling an "extraordinary right-and-left" on one shoot, he says he brought down a parrot. "It was dusk, and a magpie flew out of some gorse bushes. I shot it and then its mate flew out too. When my dog retrieved them, to my horror I saw this multicoloured bird... It must have been an escapee."

The dual trauma appears to have been shortlived for he went on



The trigger-happy Duke

to score another tremendous double. "A low woodcock came towards me over the lake. I hit it with the first barrel and just as I did so I saw a salmon rising below the surface of the water, so I shot at it and a dog bowled past me and grabbed it by the end of the tail."

P.H.S



"Apparently they're dead easy to pass, failing them is far harder"



## PRIEST IN THE CITY

A death that demands engagement not retreat

The violent death of Father Christopher Gray has robbed Liverpool of a dedicated priest and the Church of England of a future leader. As with the murder of the London headmaster Philip Lawrence last year, a Christian who devoted his formidable intellectual talents and human gifts to the deprived has died at the hands of those he sought to save. Although it would be easy to despair, Father Gray's own example encourages a hope that the best answer to misery is not retreat but engagement.

The inspiration that took Father Gray from Oxford's cloisters to inner-city Liverpool was the Anglo-Catholic tradition of ministry to the poor. Christopher Gray trained for the priesthood at the College of the Resurrection, founded by a community that had moved from Oxford to Leeds specifically to take the Church to the inner cities. Their actions were driven by their theology. Anglo-Catholicism grew out of the Oxford Movement of the 1830s, which sought to rescue Anglicanism from the complacency into which it had sunk in the 18th century. The leaders of the movement, Newman, Pusey and Keble wished to reacquaint a worldly Church with its spiritual roots.

Their teaching, particularly that of Pusey, affirmed the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. The belief in the Incarnation, the truth of Christ made Man and present in bread and wine, imbued Anglo-Catholic priests with a special concern for the physical as well as the spiritual well-being of their flock. That prompted a desire to bring Christ to the people neglected by an Anglicanism retreating to middle-class ghettos. Priests were inspired, in the words of the Magdalen missionary Father Basil Jelli-

coe, by the vision that, "everyone is a blood relative of Christ the King".

That inspiration succeeded in drawing thousands of those the Anglo-Catholic Bishop Frank Weston called the "ragged, naked, oppressed and sweated" to Christ. When the great Anglo-Catholic priest Father Dolling died, after a lifetime dedicated to the poor of Portsmouth, some 20,000 parishioners followed his cortege. The congregation was attracted as much by faith as works. The ornate ritual of a church which treated even the lowliest as "prophets, priests and kings" recognised that religion need not be celebrated in an exclusively cerebral way. Anglo-Catholicism sought to satisfy physical, and spiritual, hunger and it succeeded in irrigating unpromising lands while the Sea of Faith elsewhere withdrew.

In our age, where fewer brilliant minds feel called to the Church and few of them to work in parishes such as Christopher Gray's, his vocation was exceptional. His death will cause some to question the wisdom of a mind so elevated and a man so monastic working in conditions so difficult. But Father Gray was in a proud tradition, and a far from forlorn one.

Writing in 1993 of what priesthood meant he invoked the example of Jesus washing his disciples' feet on the eve of his Passion and the idea of "humble labour for others, in obedience to the Father, and to the point of sacrificing one's own life". Father Gray sacrificed his life engaged in the humblest of labour but to the greatest of ends — the salvation of those most desperately in need. His sacrifice should inspire his countrymen, as he was inspired by the priests who went before him, never to turn in despair from those who reject what is right.

## DOLE'S DREAM TEAM

Reasons to anoint Colin Powell in San Diego

Colin Powell gave a moving and important speech at the Republican National Convention on Monday. Since then Bob Dole has been sorely tempted to exploit the emotion and attention generated by that performance, break with precedent and offer him the post of Secretary of State. If he could be sure of success, it would be a skilful move in a so far skilful convention for the Republicans. He could, with profit, extend the idea to other choices for his Cabinet.

Any such process is subject to a peculiar legal complication: under American law a candidate may not name anyone to a post before his election. But the candidate is allowed to indicate that someone is their first choice for a job and he or she may then say whether or not they would accept the task if asked. The Republican nominee has frequently said that he admires the General and would like to see him in a Dole administration. General Powell returned the compliment on Monday by emphasising the degree that they had worked together in the past. There are some precedents. When Eisenhower pencilled in John Foster Dulles as Secretary of State in 1952 and George Bush chose James Baker in 1988, the selection was obvious in advance of the results.

The issue is not whether Mr Dole can give his blessing to General Powell but whether it is in his interests to do so. The move could smack of political desperation, appearing solely motivated by the General's huge popularity. But these risks could be outweighed by the quite convincing arguments in favour. The first is that Mr Dole prides himself on being a plain-spoken man. If he has already decided that General Powell

would be the best man for this role, he could boost his image of decisiveness by saying so.

The second is that whatever reservations Europeans may have about General Powell's extreme caution in foreign policy, he is well qualified to reinforce the Dole campaign's promise to restore competence and professionalism to the White House. It would reassure allies who may have been made nervous by Pat Buchanan's message of isolationism and protectionism during the Republican primary season.

Mr Dole has no reason to be the prisoner of precedent. Indeed given the appearance of a "New Dole" this month, with his uncharacteristically bold economic plan and his selection, in Jack Kemp, of an unexpected vice-presidential candidate, a further innovation would help to maintain the momentum of a previously dull campaign.

Of course Mr Dole is attracted by General Powell's popularity amongst voters. But there is a wider interest at stake. American government is not a one-man show. The quality of the American executive goes far beyond the presidency. It matters enormously who staffs an administration. In 1992 Bill Clinton ran on a centrist message but used racial, gender, and sexual orientation guidelines in constructing his team. He then named the White House with Arkansas intimates and campaign aides many of whom were in their twenties. If this had been known in advance, Americans might have had second thoughts. One of the best reasons for a Dole presidency is the experience and competence of the people he would bring with him. He could gain further ground by reinforcing this message now.

## FARFLUNG PHOENICIANS

Merchants with a neglected claim on our imagination

The Phoenicians were not only the most famous seafarers of ancient times; they also gave us our alphabet. They were not only once the Mediterranean's richest trading nation; they also gave us one of literature's greatest heroines. They and their offspring were dominant in southern Europe for a thousand years. But for all their efforts, and for all the admiration bestowed upon Queen Dido by poets and artists, they left little that is admired by posterity.

As our Madrid correspondent describes today, the Spanish have now uncovered a large Phoenician city at Cerro del Villar, near Malaga. It suggests a different story from the usual tales of passing barbarian traders. The site has straight streets, piazzas and ample villas. It points to a sophisticated city life of which little had been imagined before. Maybe Cerro del Villar will bring new visitors and attract new attention to the Phoenicians. It would not be before time.

Sometimes a people can get on the wrong side of history and never recover. The Phoenicians were a people mocked by the Greeks for their greed. Their Carthaginian colony, founded by Dido in the story told in Virgil's Aeneid, became the object of rivalry and hatred among the Romans, particularly after the fight that Hannibal, their greatest general, gave Rome in the 3rd century BC. When great powers visited retribution upon the Phoenicians, it was notably merciless. Alexander the Great spared barely an inhabitant of Tyre; when the Romans destroyed Carthage, which trade had made the world's richest city, they sowed the very earth with salt. Because the Phoenicians were pagans, their reputation was never rescued by the Christian successors of Greece and Rome. Pejorative references to

Levantine merchants have outlasted Phoenician Tyre and Sidon by centuries.

The Phoenicians still keep many of their secrets. It is known, for example, that with its rich silver deposits and shells yielding the coveted Tyrian purple dye, Spain contributed heavily to the Phoenicians' fabled wealth. But scant physical evidence of their presence survives, and it was commonly assumed that with the exception of Gadir, the Phoenician forerunner of Cadiz, they had built little more than trading posts there. Perhaps there will now come fresh curiosity about a civilisation which was already so skilled by the 10th century BC that it was contracted to build the Temple of Solomon, a civilisation to whose development of the North Semitic alphabet, adopted by the Greeks, we owe the origins of our own written language.

Merchants they were, the middlemen of history; but they were purveyors not merely of the spices of India, but of the spice of adventure. These were the fearless navigators who, when others were still hugging coastlines, first discovered and used the Pole Star, and who guarded the secrets of their trade routes, knowledge of currents and winds and discoveries as zealously as Renaissance Venetians were to keep the secrets of their glass factories. They framed the first known maritime laws and their great ships were the East Indian of the ancient world, credited by Herodotus with the first circumnavigation of Africa. Their borders, as Ezekiel wrote of Tyre, were figuratively as well as literally "in the midst of the seas". To a still greater extent than the Vikings, Dutch or Portuguese after them, they left little mark on land. Their claim is on the imagination.

## Human life and modern medicine

From Sir Anthony Alment

Sir, It seems to me, in the light of recent events — the abortion of a twin, the destruction of frozen embryos, the possible birth of octuplets as the result of fertility treatment — that the branch of medicine I once practised is sliding away from its belief in unique human identity and dignity towards the expedient management of genetic material (letters, August 7, 10).

Though a so-called liberal gynaecologist who performed many abortions in my own career, I would strongly endorse the views expressed by Lord Habgood (letter, August 7). I would also suggest that the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority has allowed itself to drift, in having failed to prevent the careless neglect of proper record-keeping or to accept responsibility for excess embryos whose fate has caused such sadness.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY ALMENT (President,  
Royal College of Obstetricians  
and Gynaecologists, 1978-81),  
Winston House,  
Boughton, Northampton.  
August 14.

From Mrs Sara Starkey

Sir, Once again we have headlines over another miracle/horror of science. And so far it has been easiest to blame the woman herself, GPs or the media.

We, the public, are inconsistent in our attitudes. On the one hand we are horrified by the unnaturalness of modern medicine while, at the same time, putting vast sums into research charity coffers and, through our taxes, into universities and teaching hospitals. These funds go towards ever more esoteric research into all branches of medical science, including genetics and experiments designed to give every infertile woman the opportunity to have a child.

Apart from the fact most of these women won't conceive after many toxic and suspect procedures, those who do eventually give birth have a far higher chance of producing children with problems, from slow learning to quite horrendous illnesses.

By sad contrast, we have made little headway in overall health: indeed, according to the latest Government data (Living in Britain, General Household Survey 1994, HMSO, 1996) in every age group, particularly the young, the incidence of longstanding illness is rising. Perhaps the latest horror stories on what medicine is now capable of doing will act as a catalyst to rethinking whether this radical roller-coaster interventionist medicine is the panacea to all our ills.

Yours sincerely,  
SARA STARKEY,  
12a Ashburham Road,  
Tonbridge, Kent.  
August 13.

From the Reverend J. E. Abberton

Sir, I believe that Lord Habgood's moral reasoning is wrong. You simply cannot, logically, argue for any human rights at any stage unless there is first of all a right to reach that stage. You cannot abandon the rights of the embryo and then hope to rediscover human rights later on.

The word "fable" means able to live without the protection of the womb (did I say "protection"?); but no one in society can live alone — we all depend on each other, and newly born babies certainly rely on their mothers for on some other source of nourishment and care.

It is understandable that many will not wish to use the word "person" in regard to the human embryo; but it is undoubtedly human life and, if allowed to develop as either nature or God intends, it will become a person.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. ABBERTON,  
St Peter's Presbytery,  
651 Leeds Road,  
Bradford, West Yorkshire.  
August 7.

From Mr Andrew E. A. Selous

Sir, Is it not true that the law allowed GPs to prescribe fertility treatment only to married women with their husband's consent where the couple can support children? The commitment of marriage is the best place for a child, let alone several children born at the same time.

Furthermore, why should the public fund treatment through their taxes that can lead to considerable cost to the public purse when the parents concerned are unable to support the children?

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW E. A. SELOUS  
(Conservative prospective  
parliamentary candidate for  
Sunderland North),  
52 Kyrle Road, SW11,  
August 13.

From Mr Rodney Parkins

Sir, You quote Miss Mandy Allwood as saying of her eight-baby pregnancy: "I want nature to take its course" (report, August 12). What a pity that she did not do so before accepting in-fertility treatment.

Yours faithfully,  
RODNEY PARKINS,  
5 Duval Drive, Rochester, Kent.  
August 13.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Whittle and the vision for invention

From Dr William Kingston

Sir, Your obituary of Sir Frank Whittle today notes that he debated whether he could afford the £5 to renew the patent for the jet engine, first filed at the Patent Office in 1930.

It was in fact worse than this. I received a letter from him in 1969 in which he said: "I allowed the master patent to lapse in 1935 because it then seemed unlikely that the invention would reach a commercial stage within the life of the patent; moreover, I could ill afford the renewal fees." He goes on to point out that his first financial backers, Falk and Parsons, never received a dividend and were even forced to sell their shares at par (allowing for inflation) in 1944, by Sir Stafford Cripps, then the Minister for Aircraft Production.

One might be allowed to speculate that, if Whittle had received full industrial and government support from the start, jet propulsion might have been as powerful a deterrent in the cause of peace as the atomic bomb was in the postwar period.

But Whittle was no salesman, and did not know his way around politics and bureaucracies as well as Watson-Watt did in the cause of radar. So the money (£4 million — a prodigious amount for research in the 1930s) went into the essentially defensive radar instead.

Another interesting twist to this story of failure to back innovation is that when Admiral "Jackie" Fisher was relegated to the Board of Invention in the First World War, he sent for Sir Charles Parsons, the inventor of the steam turbine, to try to get him to marry the turbine principle with in-

ternal combustion. Parsons replied that not only could he not do it, but that the task was intrinsically impossible. It was just this that Whittle achieved in 1930.

Yours faithfully,  
WILLIAM KINGSTON,  
University of Dublin,  
School of Business Studies,  
Trinity College, Dublin 2,  
August 10.

From Professor G. D. W. Smith, FRS

Sir, Your obituary for Sir Frank Whittle is an object lesson for all who are concerned with science policy in the United Kingdom. In my view, the saga of official neglect, failure to invest, and eventual handover of ideas to competitors, is still all too familiar.

At present, the Government and the Research Councils are exerting pressure on scientists to move towards more applied, short-term research which will be wealth-creating. The implications of this policy are that we are not already doing work of this kind, and that the blame for Britain's relative failure in recent years to compete with the rest of the world in high-technology industry can be laid at the door of the scientific community.

The story of Frank Whittle shows there is little wrong with the quality, or the applicability, of our science. The problems lie downstream, with repeated failures of courage, vision, and investment by government, city and financial institutions, and industry.

Yours sincerely,  
GEORGE SMITH  
(Professor of Materials Science),  
Trinity College, Oxford.  
August 10.

## Postal dispute

From Mr S. J. Casely

Sir, It is not the totality of services that Royal Mail offer that is the centre of this dispute (Mr Robin Rhoderick-Jones's letter, August 12), but rather the increasingly absurd methods that Royal Mail wish to introduce to increase profit.

The recent rise in postal charges was brought about by increasing government demands for revenue (another form of indirect taxation) and not by the business failing to deliver productivity or profit targets.

The union's point is that they have given Royal Mail a level of productivity and quality of service unparalleled in any comparable postal administration, and now wish rightly to share in the benefits. By any standard the postal workers do an outstanding job for wages and conditions that few would wish to accept. A five-day week is not unreasonable for those who start the working day at 5am.

Yours etc,  
S. J. CASELY,  
Flat 24, Merlyn House,  
Central Avenue, Chatham, Kent.  
August 12.

## Abolition of duty-free

From Mr Steven Burgess

Sir, George Brock is quite right to question the logic of maintaining duty-free ("This week in Europe", August 12). Its abolition within the single market makes sense and will not necessarily mark the end of a great tradition: for as long as we have a higher domestic duty on such products as beer, wine and spirits, we will continue to travel to the Continent for cheaper alcoholic drinks.

But, as a result of abolishing duty-free, the forces of competition and consumer choice within the single market will, in the longer term, bring extra pressure to bear on the Chancellor to reduce the level of duty in this country. Such a development would surely be a good thing for the individual consumer and taxpayer and would enable the alcoholic drinks industry here to compete on a more level footing with our EU partners.

Yours sincerely,  
S. T. BURGESS,  
Top Flat 34 Dymock Street, SW6,  
August 12.

From Mr Robert G. Parker-Eaton

Sir, As the executive committee representative for all UK airlines on the Duty Free Confederation, I can assure George Brock that airlines have not been "begging government for years".

## Content of alcohol

From Dr Julia Ellis

Sir, Rosie Boycott's contribution to your feature on addiction yesterday, "Why some people can't stop at a few drinks and a flutter", horrified me. She states that: "Alcohol itself is ether." I can assure her that it most certainly is not. Ethyl alcohol is found in alcoholic beverages and, in reasonable quantities, creates the harmless high that she discusses.

Ether is a volatile substance that vapourises readily at room temperature and in this state is highly explosive. It is also a powerful and unpleasant anaesthetic. Members of the public should not confuse the two, and must not attempt to smell, taste or handle ether in any way.

Yours faithfully,  
JULIA ELLIS  
(Nutritionist, Coeliac Research Unit),  
St Thomas' Hospital,  
Lambeth Palace Road, SE1,  
August 13.

to release them from the need to carry "unnecessary duty-free alcohol in passenger jets".

Duty-free sales on aircraft (and at airports) not only provide customers with a quality service, but are a major source of income which helps keep ticket prices down. If duty-free shops within the EU does end in 1999, Britannia Airways estimates that holiday prices will increase by around £15 per passenger.

Mr Brock also suggests that the income derived from duty and tax-free provides airports with a government subsidy; but duty-free is only a subsidy if there is an actual loss to the UK exchequer.

The Duty Free Confederation has strong reason to believe, and is currently undertaking research to prove, that there is in fact no loss to the exchequer from duty and tax-free sales. In fact, the converse is true — duty-free actually generates additional exchequer revenue and valuable employment. Contrary to some opinion, duty-free sales will not, in the main, be replaced by tax-paid sales, to the detriment of producers such as the Scotch whisky industry.

Yours sincerely,  
ROBERT PARKER-EATON  
(Deputy Managing Director),  
Britannia Airways Ltd.,  
Britannia House,  
London Luton Airport, Bedfordshire.  
August 13.

## Britten statue

From Mrs A. M. Riley

Sir, "Britten is probably the greatest composer this country has ever produced." What a depressing thought!

Mr Peter Shaffer (letter, August 9) might like to listen to Elgar.

Yours sincerely,  
A. M. RILEY,  
High Post, Parsons Lane,  
Crockerton, Warrminster, Wiltshire.

From Mr Graham Wheeler

Sir, Perhaps the statue should be in London. After all, Britten is a national figure. Aldeburgh can hardly object — they have had their say. What about the foyer of the new Sadlers Wells theatre (report and photograph, August 13) — the site where Peter Grimes was first given?

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM WHEELER,  
67 Eastbury Road,  
Northwood, Middlesex.  
August 13.

## Cast-iron design for a phone box

From Mr Bruce Martin, FRIBA

Sir, Lord St John of Fawsley, Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission, asks for a competition for the design of a new telephone kiosk of "really good contemporary design" (letter, August 13; see also leading article, August 14).

Such a competition was held in 1964. The kiosk was chosen by the Post Office and the Royal Fine Art Commission, and about 25,000 were made.

It was a cast-iron red kiosk, virtually vandal-proof, could be easily assembled in 20 minutes, had seven panes of glass (instead of 72 in the traditional kiosk which Lord St John praises in his letter), was easy to clean, well ventilated, properly illuminated and was a good, clean design. Sadly, very few remain, having been superseded by the current rash of irrational, ill-designed boxes.

There is no need for another competition: reinstate K8. It is now 30 years old — old enough, in fact, to be listed.

Yours etc,  
BRUCE MARTIN  
(Designer of the K8 kiosk),  
Bruce Martin Associates,  
The New Studio,  
Bury Green, Little Hadham,  
Ware, Hertfordshire.  
August 14.

From Professor D. E. Newland

Sir, The Chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission wants to improve the design of telephone kiosks and suggests a national competition. I propose that this competition should include also the design of telecommunication masts.

These skeletal structures serve an important and useful function but can be very intrusive, especially when sited in beautiful countryside. When there are two masts of similar height but different design standing close together, the visual effect can be disastrous.

The objective of a competition should be to find the most pleasing aesthetic design, while seeking to minimise the number of masts needed. Cannot one elegant mast carry the aerials for several operators?

Lord St John says the traditional red telephone kiosk was designed with the help of the Royal Fine Art Commission. Rather than inviting BT and other telephone companies to hold their own design competition (as he suggests), cannot the RFAC take the lead in sponsoring a competition? I am sure that the relevant professional engineering institutions as well as the companies concerned would be willing to help administer this.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID NEWLAND,  
University of Cambridge,  
Department of Engineering,  
Trumpington Street, Cambridge.  
August 13.

## Heart of the Bruce

From the Dean of Aberdeen and Orkney

Sir, It is indeed good that the heart of Robert the Bruce should receive a proper burial (report, August 13), but is Melrose Abbey the right place for this?

The Bruce himself changed his expressed desire that his heart be buried at Melrose. Should not his dying wish that it be buried in Jerusalem now be respected? After his death in 1329 the attempt to take his embalmed heart to the Holy Land foundered in Spain, but the journey could yet be completed.

Now that Historic Scotland has begun excavations at Melrose to find the casket containing the heart and plans to rebury it "with a fitting ceremony", surely Saint Andrew's Church in Jerusalem, where a plaque set into the floor some sixty years ago commemorates King Robert's dying wish, is the proper place.

Yours faithfully,  
GERALD STRANRAER-MULL,  
The Rectory, Ellon, Aberdeenshire.  
August 13.

## Irish famine ship

From Mr F. G. Davis

Sir, Would it not be an imaginative gesture of reconciliation for the British Government to offer to match the Irish Government's contribution to the cost of the replica of the famine ship, *Jeannie Johnston*, now building in County Kerry (report and photograph, August 10)? And an equally imaginative gesture of forgiveness for the organising committee to accept it?

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK DAVIS,  
Stonelea, South Newington,  
Banbury, Oxfordshire.  
August 10.

## Budget tip

From Mrs Kathleen Read

Sir, In view of the 1p increase on a first-class postage stamp, do you think the Chancellor could manage a further penny on the 25p per week extra allowance on the pensions of the over-eighties? Many of us can still write.

Yours sincerely,  
KATHLEEN READ,  
2 Windmill Cottages,  
Hilltop Breadsall, Derby.  
August 14.





## Ferry starts next year's price war

By STEVE KEENAN

A CHANNEL ferry price war for 1997 has begun, with one operator offering the same rock-bottom fares as this summer.

Sea France is selling return crossings for as low as £79 per car and up to five occupants this summer and guarantees purchasers the same fare next year. Standard returns for £95 on the Dover-Calais route carry the same deal.

The French-owned company, which only started service under a new name in January, has pledged to match any lower fare next year. "We are determined to lead the way in the battle of the cross-Channel fares. Even if prices are lowered next year then the customer can't lose," says Robin Wilkins, the managing director.

This attempt to keep customers reflects the pressure smaller companies are under after the summer cuts.

Today Stena introduces the biggest ship seen out of Dover, the *Stena Emperor*, capable of carrying 2,000 passengers and 550 cars. The company now runs four ferries and two catamarans on the route to Calais, which accounts for 80 per cent of cross-Channel traffic.

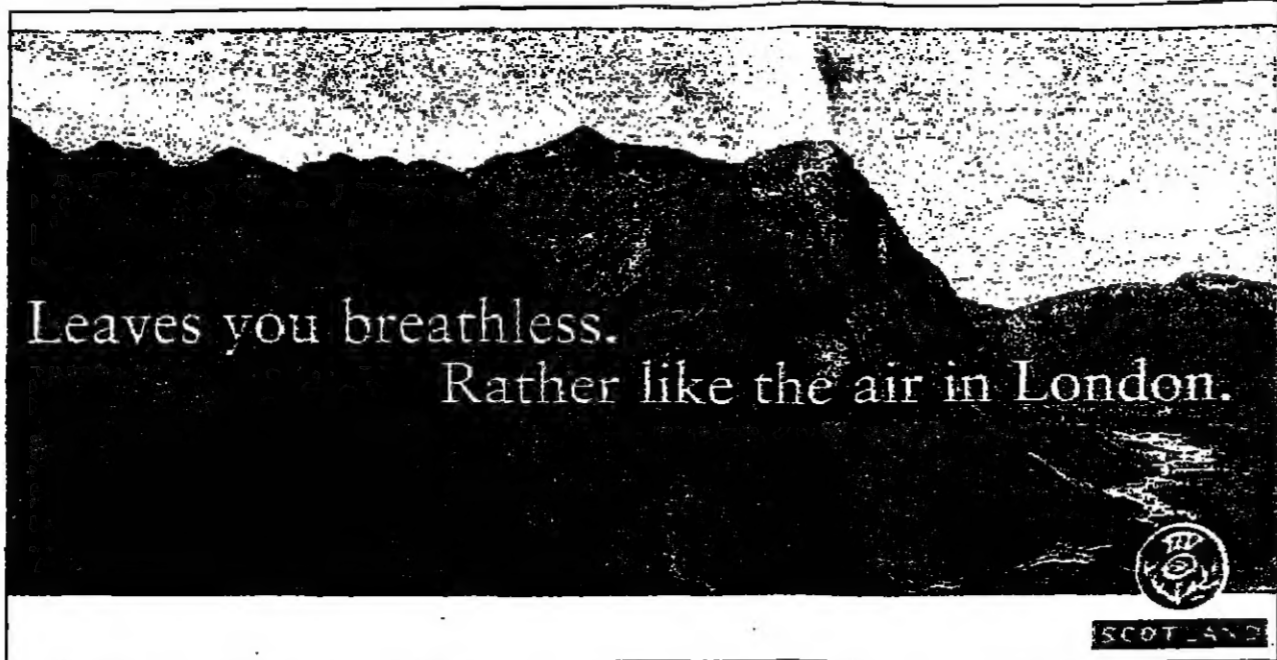
In the first six months of this year, Sally Ferries lost 25 per cent of its passengers on the two routes from Ramsgate, while Sea France carried just 8 per cent of ferry passengers and less than 5 per cent of all

traffic, including Eurotunnel. The company was in partnership with Stena until the beginning of the year.

But Bill Laidlaw, Sea France operations director, says: "We have made progress every month and are looking for between 12 and 14 per cent of the ferry market by the end of the year. The way things are going, people are waiting until the last minute to make bookings. For a new company not known in the UK we are not doing too badly."

The exception among smaller operators has been Hoverspeed, which has kept 10 per cent of the market in the face of competition from P&O, Stena and Eurotunnel's Le Shuttle service. The numbers have been largely buoyed by the booze-cruise, shopping and day-trip market. While Hoverspeed carried 1.34 million passengers on its two routes in the first six months of this year, it took only 133,000 cars. The industry normally works on four passengers to a car.

Le Shuttle has taken one third of the car and passenger market, with the biggest loser — in terms of numbers — being P&O European Ferries. The company has lost 16 per cent of passengers on Dover-Calais. But with the Government allowing P&O to talk to rivals about possible co-operation, the line-up of competitors is unlikely to remain the same for 1997.



Oxygen of publicity: Scottish Tourist Board poster aimed specifically at harassed commuters in the South East

## Scotland in bid to make capital gains

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

LONDON'S polluted air is being exploited by Scotland to persuade tourists to turn their backs on the capital and head for the clean air of the hills and glens that lie north of the border.

Thousands of posters will be put up today in Underground and mainline railway stations telling commuters that "Scotland leaves you breathless rather like the air in London".

The £185,000 poster campaign is part of a £1.5 million drive designed to boost still further Scotland's tourism industry which is wooing record numbers of holidaymakers from the South East.

This no-holds-barred marketing ploy has infuriated the London Tourist Board. "It is unfortunate that the Scottish Tourist Board advertising campaign seems couched in competitive terms," said Paul Hopper, managing director of the LTB.

"If you want a choice of 100 theatres, 125 cinemas and 11,000 pubs, clubs and restaurants, you will have to come to London. However, if a quiet sunset over the mountains is what you are after, then

Scotland is definitely the place."

Scottish tourism leaders were unrepentant. "Two places as diverse as Scotland and London ought to be able to co-exist," said the Scottish Tourist Board. "The fact is, though, that the environment is different in London than in Scotland. All we are doing is trying to point out that the quality of life is different and, with a certain amount of irony and levity, that Scotland is affordable, accessible and different."

The idea behind the campaign is to convince commuters crammed into crowded trains to make a spur-of-the-moment decision to spend a few days in Scotland, especially in the autumn.

The attempt to extend the holiday season into the autumn was first tried last year with the launch of an Autumn Gold brochure. It proved so successful that this year it is being extended with many parts of the industry combining to offer package deals which, the STB claims, can be

half the price of similar breaks in England.

Ryanair is offering a return flight from Stansted to Glasgow Prestwick from £49 with onward rail travel anywhere in Scotland for an extra £5. The limited number of seats must be booked seven days in advance and are not available on Fridays or Sundays.

InterCity West Coast is offering two London to Glasgow tickets for the price of one: £29. Bed and breakfast in a farmhouse costs from £13 a night or a room in a castle from £27 a night per person.

Historic properties, including Edinburgh and Stirling castles, are staying open longer and the Autumn Gold promotion provides two admissions to any Scottish National Trust property for the price of one.

Although most of the estimated five million British visitors to Scotland each year make their own arrangements, a typical three-night package including return air travel, car hire and dinner, bed and breakfast would cost

£185 a person. Tourism to Scotland declined in the early part of this decade, and in 1995 there was a fall of 8 per cent in the amount being spent. Last year this was reversed, with a 7 per cent increase.

English visitors to Scotland spent an estimated £800 million in 1995 — 11 per cent more than the previous year — and tourists from the South East brought in £300 million of that. Hollywood films such as *Rob Roy*, *Braveheart* and *Loch Ness* are also believed to have helped stimulate interest in Scottish holidays in the past two years.

Rain in Scotland is less likely in October and November than in July and August. The 30-year average rainfall in Edinburgh is 48mm in October compared with 79mm in August. Shetland has seven minutes' more daylight than London at the beginning of October, visibility can be as much as 35 miles in the autumn and the midge — the creature which has put off more visitors than any tourist campaign has attracted — dies with the first frosts of October.

## US train routes cut

By QUENTIN LETTS

AN AMERICAN version of the Beeching cuts to passenger train services has been announced, with 12 per cent of the US rail network affected and some of the most evocative routes through the old Wild West likely to be closed.

Amtrak, the national train operator, says that shortage of federal government funds will force it to close three major routes in November. The threatened closure will deprive 42 towns and cities of passenger train services.

Casualties will include the Pioneer run between Denver and Seattle, named after the frontiersmen for whom trains were a lifeline during the westward conquest in the 19th century. The wonderfully named Desert Wind express, connecting Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, will vanish, as will the Texas Eagle between St Louis and San Antonio.

Tom Downs, president of Amtrak, left open the possibility of a reprieve but said it was "nearly impossible" to say what will take place. The lines are losing money and their axing will allow for an increase in services on better patronised lines. Amtrak has a \$200 million (£133 million) budget deficit and faces a \$50 million reduction in support.

Texas will be particularly badly hit. Eleven cities, including Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth and Mineola, will lose their passenger services. So will

President Clinton's political base, Little Rock, Arkansas.

The cuts will represent the biggest reduction in rail service since 1979, when the Carter Administration made sharp cutbacks in a network that once criss-crossed America. The mournful clanking bell of approaching trains is seldom heard in many parts of the US, where the car and the plane have come to rule.

Maintaining the miles of track across the continent played havoc with the economics of train travel, and passengers appeared to have less taste for communal voyaging than their European and Asian cousins.

Amtrak, which has struggled to keep down organised labour costs and could not shake off a downmarket, dodgy image, was also undone by its failure to keep to timetables. The public perception was unfair — trains are comfortable, the staff genial, and the vistas formidable — but passenger numbers remained disappointing.

Even before news of the cuts, railway enthusiasts were disappointed after Amtrak did away with some of the romantic names of its trains. Names such as The Senator and the Connecticut Yankee were replaced with "product lines and numbers". The Connecticut Yankee, connecting Massachusetts to Washington, became the Northeast Direct 142.

## Visitor boom in confident Canada

By JOHN YOUNG

AIR Canada's announcement that it is to operate daily flights to Calgary and Edmonton this winter, as against five a week last year, is evidence of the rising popularity of Canada as a winter sports destination. In three years the numbers of British skiers travelling to Banff and Lake Louise in Alberta and to Whistler in British Columbia, has leapt from hundreds to more than 20,000.

Return fares from £439 may appear steep, but several well-known operators, including Crystal and Inghams, are offering competitive packages. Thanks to the relative weakness of the Canadian dollar, prices of hotels, meals, lifts and ski hire compare favourably with Europe. The season is generally longer, snow conditions more reliable, and in a straw poll last January British visitors commended the friendliness of the locals, the absence of lan-

guage difficulties and not being "ripped off".

With the summer tourism trade also booming, the number of UK visitors rose last year by nearly 12 per cent (compared with a fall of 3 per cent to the United States), and this year the Canadian Tourism Commission is predicting more than 650,000.

Confidence is evidenced by Canadian Pacific's £650 million programme to extend its 26 hotels, which include such famous landmarks as the Banff Springs and Chateau Lake Louise in the Rockies, the Empress in Victoria, British Columbia, the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City and the Royal York in Toronto.

"Six or seven years ago our landmark hotels were frankly tired and living on their past reputation," says John Fye, the company's eastern regional president. "But we are determined they should again be seen at their very best."

## Algarve £400m facelift

By MARTIN SYMINGTON

PLANS have been unveiled to turn the Algarve resort of Vilamoura into Europe's largest leisure complex. The £400 million project is to be completed over 20 years, according to André Jordan, chairman of Grupo André Jordan, which three months ago acquired a 38 per cent stake in the resort.

Two golf courses are to be added to the existing three: 6,000 villas and low-rise apartments are to be built, taking the total tourist capacity from the current 35,000 to 57,000. There are also plans to landscape 200 acres with lakes and canals to create a nature park, themed on marine life.

Other developments include an equestrian centre and a 7,000-capacity sports and entertainment arena. Work is expected to begin in January 1997. Top of the list is the first golf course, which former US Masters champion Bernhard Langer has been commissioned to design.

## Credit hitch for hotel users

By DAVID CHURCHILL

BUSINESS travellers who use their credit cards as a guarantee when checking into hotels are warned that some international hotel chains are debiting "significant" amounts to their cards to cover the cost of the room and other charges even when guests plan to settle their accounts by other means. This can unknowingly leave travellers with little spare plastic credit for the rest of their trip.

The warning has come from the Guild of Business Travel Agents. Philip Carlisle, the Guild's chief executive, says the issue has been raised by a number of executives. "One executive was unable to hire a car when in America because the card's limit had been reached in this way, even though in theory he had plenty of credit left," he says. "Amounts can be debited to the card account even when the hotel bill is paid by other means, and this can render the card unusable for the remainder of a trip."

The problem only arises

with Visa, Mastercard and other credit cards which have a fixed limit. Charge cards such as American Express and Diners Club have no preset limit. Hotels run a credit check with guests' credit cards on check-in to ensure that the room bill is covered.

The Guild, however, wants hotels to advise customers, when they are taking a card imprint, of the guarantee amount that will be set against it. It also wants hotels to ensure that the amount is cleared from the credit card account immediately the customers settle the bill.

British Airways has linked up with Diners Club to launch a personal charge card offering Air Miles for most expenditure using the card. BA/Diners Club card holders will belong to BA's Executive Club and, in addition to a 300 Miles bonus on joining and a further bonus later on, will receive one Air Mile for every £5 spent on BA flights and one Mile for every £10 on other expenditure.

## Packages now cost less than in 1977

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

PACKAGE holiday prices have tumbled by almost half in the past 20 years. The dramatic fall, in real terms, of the cost of taking a foreign holiday has led to four times as many package tourists heading abroad by air and opened up many long distance destinations that were almost untouched in 1977.

The full extent of the drop in price was discovered by Thomson researchers who were trawling through old brochures in their head office.

"At first sight the prices in 1977 appeared low — but when you then took account of inflation it suddenly became apparent just how cheap they now are," says Gloria Ward who carried out the research. A 14-night package to the Hotel Santa Lucia in Majorca in May 1977, for example, cost £131, the equivalent of £435 today. Yet in the 1997 brochure the same holiday is £389. Seven nights in the Maderada Hotel, Croatia — then a favourite destination for Britons — was £128 during the summer peak, £425 in today's money. The price in the 1997 brochure is £355. Further afield, Shaw Park Jamaica could offer 14 nights for £429



Jamaica: what was the equivalent of £1,425 is now £1,069

half board, or £1,425 now: the price today is £1,069 inclusive. The main reason for the drop, especially in long-haul travel, has been the introduction of charter aircraft on the popular routes. "Anyone can go to Australia for under £600 now, which was unthinkable 20 years ago," says Ms Ward.

Anyone who has not booked for this summer, however, will find little still available and what there is will be at the full price. Lunn Poly yesterday had a seven-night Airtravels self-catering holiday to Majorca on

August 23 for £379 and there is a seven-night Horizon self-catering holiday at Los Gigantes, Tenerife, from Stansted on September 4, for £244. Last year operators were desperate to sell thousands of unsold holidays at the last moment. This year there are fewer available — and customers have to be quick. A colleague saw on Teletext a week's self-catering holiday in Majorca for £239 and rang immediately.

"I've just sold it," the telephonist said. "You're going to have to move faster than that!"

## Risk in the skies

ALMOST every day an airliner flying over Britain strays out of its assigned flight level, risking a mid-air collision, according to a new report by the Civil Aviation Authority. Harvey Elliott writes.

A safety survey of "level violations" in UK airspace during 1994 revealed that 235 aircraft strayed from the altitude they were assigned by ground controllers. The two main causes of the incidents — most of which took place when the aircraft were climbing between 3,000 and 12,000 feet — were pilot error or equipment malfunction.

Nearly 70 per cent of the violations involved foreign pilots and the survey calculated that 11 of the 235 reported incidents was caused by "pilot language difficulties". Twenty-two were regarded as "proximity hazards" and five were assessed as causing a real risk of collision.

Easily the main factor was aircrew not complying with air traffic control instructions, with altimeter setting errors, misreading and call sign confusion all high on the list of reasons for the "bust".

"The survey has confirmed and reinforced the growing concern about these potentially hazardous occurrences, especially as the majority occur in congested airspace where there is a greater chance of a mid-air collision," says the report. It urges all airlines to introduce "a standard, systematic flight-deck altitude awareness safety campaign" because, it says, procedures are not always complied with.

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